

Tell Me What You Want

Prompt Sequence: Grade: 8 | Genre: Informative

Writing clarity and organization are crucial components of the Grade 8 prompt sequence. This nine-week plan provides opportunities for students to read and respond to different sources, from memoirs and videos, to articles and short stories. Prompts from our Signal Check and Spot Check libraries center on the fundamental pieces of informative writing, allowing students to apply learned techniques and revise their writing. Teachers can use Exemplar Essays, as well as activities from our Expansion Pack Library and Curriculum Resources page, to further support students' informative writing skills.

Week 1: Diagnostic

Assign **Open Window** in Spot Check as a diagnostic writing task to get a baseline regarding students' starting levels in each trait.

Week 2: Review

Print and discuss the **Open Window** Exemplar Essays. Utilize exemplar activities with students to illustrate and define key elements of successful informative writing.

Week 3: Preparation

Use the Assignment Report to see where students struggled on the diagnostic. Prepare students for their formative assignment by leading an Expansion Pack activity aimed at improving weaker areas.

Week 4: Formative Assignment

Use Signal Check to assign **Home: The Blueprint of Our Lives** for students to practice informative writing skills and receive actionable feedback on their writing.

Week 5: Review

Print and discuss the **Home: The Blueprint of Our Lives** Exemplar Essays to revisit key elements of successful informative writing.

Week 6: Skill Building

Prepare an Expansion Pack activity that will support students in their writing clarity, organization, or language. Additionally, model and offer support and tools for students when reading more challenging prompts and sources.

Week 7: Formative Assignment

Use Signal Check to assign **Digital Footprint** for students to practice informative writing skills and receive actionable feedback on their writing.

Week 8: Skill Solidifying

Use the Assignment Report to see where students struggled on their formative assignments. Implement activities from the Expansion Pack aimed at addressing weaker areas in order to prepare students for their culminating writing task.

Week 9: Culminating Writing Task

Assign **Nature by Design** in Spot Check as a culminating writing task to check on student's progress on the skills of this unit of study.

