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| **Session 1** | |
| **Concept** | Writers generate ideas for writing personal essays. |
| **Teaching Point** | Writers analyze the content and structure of personal essays. |

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| **References** | **Materials** |
| * ***Lucy Calkins Units of Study for Teaching Writing, Grades 3-5, Book 3: Breathing Life Into Essays***, Lucy Calkins * ***Chicken Soup for the Kid’s Soul****, Jack Canfield, et.al.* * ***Chicken Soup for the Kid’s Soul 2****, Jack Canfield, et.al.* * ***Chicken Soup for the Preteen Soul****, Jack Canfield, et.al.* | * Anchor charts: * ***Examining the Structure of Essays*** * ***Comparing Narratives and Essays*** * Enlarged copies of the following class-sized essays: * ***“The Cool Club,”*** from ***Chicken Soup for the Kid’s Soul 2*** * ***“The Power of the Pen”*** from ***Chicken Soup for the Preteen Soul*** * Copies of the following essays for each group: * ***“My Guardian Angel“*** from ***Chicken Soup for the Kid’s Soul*** * ***“Just Do It!”*** from ***Chicken Soup for the Preteen Soul*** * Two-column charts for each group |

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| **Notes** | * Spend more than one day for a session if necessary. * Create permanent classroom anchor charts by adding new strategies as you go. If you choose to use a document camera to share the anchor charts from this unit, also create classroom anchor charts so students can refer to them later. * Use the ***Conferring Checklist*** located at the end of this unit. * In this session, students will be reading and discussing personal essays in small groups to immerse them in this genre. Plan ahead for group assignments. |
| **Connection** | * Explain that students will begin a new writing unit of study today. They will start by looking at the structure and content of personal essays. In personal essays, the author advances a theme of personal significance. |
| **Demonstration/**  **Teaching** | * Explain that essays are always organized around a topic or an **important idea**. Authors present their opinion, or perspective, related to an important idea, and then they argue their position in their essays. * Explain that today students will study the **important ideas** and **evidence**, or support, for those ideas in essays. They will learn more about forming an opinion, or taking a perspective, in a few days. * Share the personal essay, ***“The Cool Club,”*** and examine the introduction to identify the **important idea**. Explain how the body of the essay includes evidence for this **important idea**. * Record the **important idea** and the **evidence** on a class-sized ***Examining the Structure of Essay***s chart. |
| **Active Engagement** | * Have students help you do this same work that you just demonstrated using the essay, “***The Power of the Pen***.” * Summarize the process for the students. |
| **Link** | *Writers, you will be working in groups today to explore two other personal essays. You will be reading them to determine the* ***important ideas*** *and the* ***evidence*** *that supports the* ***important ideas****. You will be recording this information on a two-column chart for each group.* |
| **Writing and**  **Conferring** | * Conduct small group conferences. Listen to and help students identify the **important ideas** and understand how the **evidence** relates to each **important idea**. |
| **Mid-Workshop Teaching Point** | * Have two or three groups of students share the **important ideas** and **evidence** from their personal essays and add them to the class chart. Summarize the thinking the students used. |
| **Share** | * Convene students in the meeting area. * Bring closure to today’s workshop by using the ***Comparing Narratives and Essays*** chart to do a side-by side comparison of a narrative and an essay. * Review each characteristic of narratives using a familiar narrative text as an example. Review each characteristic of essays using an essay as an example. * Students should be able to identify texts that are read aloud as narrative or essay and explain why. * Explain that although there are differences between these two kinds of writing, there are also similarities. Both kinds of writing are made from ideas and stories. In narrative writing, the story comes forward, and in essay writing, the idea comes forward. A writer could write a narrative or an essay about any given experience. |

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| **Examining the Structure of Essays** | |
| **Titles/Important ideas** | **Evidence** |
| **“The Cool Club”**  **Real friends accept and support you the way you are.** | **Alison wanted to hang out with the popular kids, until she realized they were not the kind of friends she wanted to have.** |
| **“The Power of the Pen”**  **Persistence and patience pay off.** | **Arlys fought to have a statue honoring Susan B. Anthony moved to a place of honor.** |
| **“My Guardian Angel”**  **Don’t take life for granted.** | **Travis fell into a pool when he was only two years old, but his mom saved his life just in time.** |
| **“Just Do It!”**  **If you know something is right, don’t avoid it.** | **Son knew he needed glasses, but he didn’t tell anyone because he was afraid that glasses would make him look dorky.** |

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| **Examining the Structure of Essays** | |
| **Titles/Important ideas** | **Evidence** |
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| **Comparing Narratives and Essays** | |
| **Narrative** | **Essay** |
| * Organized in sequence. | * Organized around an important idea. |
| * Begins with character, setting, and problem. | * Begins with an important idea and an opinion, or perspective. |
| * Characters are developed across the whole text. | * Important idea is developed across the whole text. |
| * Ends with a resolution to the problem. | * Ends by returning to the important idea. |
| * Written so the reader can participate in the experience. | * Written so the reader can think about the important idea. |

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| **Session 2** | |
| **Concept** | Writers generate ideas for writing personal essays. |
| **Teaching Point** | Writers brainstorm **essay ideas** from the important ideas in personal essays. |

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| **References** | **Materials** |
| * ***Lucy Calkins Units of Study for Teaching Writing, Grades 3-5, Book 3: Breathing Life Into Essays***, Lucy Calkins | * Writer’s notebooks * Anchor charts: * ***Examining the Structure of Essays*** * ***Comparing Narratives and Essays*** * ***Possible Essay Ideas*** |

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| **Note** | * Post on the daily schedule or verbally ask students to bring their writer’s notebook and a pencil to the meeting area. |
| **Connection** | * Explain that students will be thinking about the **important ideas** from the essays they read yesterday to help them come up with their own **essay ideas**. |
| **Demonstration/**  **Teaching** | * Review the ***Examining the Structure of Essays*** chart from yesterday’s session. * Explain that you and the students are going to start thinking about possible **essay ideas** and jotting them down today and for the next couple of days. * Demonstrate how to focus in on one important idea from the chart, think about what this idea means to you, and recall when an **experience** related to this idea occurred in your own life. Also suggest that students consider **observations, facts, events, and quotations** as **evidence** that can support the important ideas in essays. * Begin a T-chart on the board with the title ***Possible Essay Ideas*** and the headings ***Important ideas*** and ***Evidence from My Life or the World.*** Write the important idea in the box and a few words that tell about the **experience, observation, fact, event, or quotation** next to the first bullet on the chart. Then see if you can think of two more **experiences, observations, facts, events**, **or quotations** related to the same important idea and record them next to the second bullet on the chart. |
| **Active Engagement** | * Have students create a T-chart with the same title and headings on a clean page in their writer’s notebooks. * Give students time to think of three **experiences, observations, facts, events, and quotations** related to the same important idea and then share their ideas with a partner. * Have a few students share their ideas with the class. Explain that students should listen carefully to the ideas of other students because they often spark memories of other **experiences, observations, facts, events, and quotations** that can be used as **evidence** to support the important idea. * Have students jot down the important idea and the evidence on their T-charts. * Have students continue to do this same work using one more important idea from the chart. |
| **Link** | *Writers, today you will continue this work independently. You will look at two other important ideas listed on the* ***Examining the Structure of Essays*** *chart, think about* ***experiences, observations, facts, events, and quotations*** *that can be used as* ***evidence****, and jot down these ideas in your writer’s notebooks. Talk about your ideas with a partner today. Your ideas might spark memories for others, and their ideas might spark memories for you.* |
| **Writing and**  **Conferring** | * Conduct individual conferences to support students’ efforts at thinking of their own ideas related to the important ideas. |
| **Share** | * Convene students in the meeting area. * Bring closure to today’s workshop by having several students share **essay ideas** from their notebooks. Summarize the thinking the students used. * Have students recall and share one thing that they learned. |

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| **Possible Essay Ideas** | |
| **Important ideas** | **Evidence from My Life or the World**  **(Personal Experiences,**  **Observations, Facts, Events)** |
| * **Real friends accept and support you the way you are.** | * **My sister’s friend has a disability, but they have always been best friends.** * **A good friend of mine is always there for me, even when I make mistakes.** * **My mom’s friend cooked every day for us while my mom was in the hospital.** |
| * **Persistence and patience pay off.** |  |
| * **Don’t take life for granted.** |  |
| * **If you know something is right, don’t avoid it.** |  |

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| **Session 3** | |
| **Concept** | Writers generate ideas for writing personal essays. |
| **Teaching Point** | Writers brainstorm essay ideas from the important ideas in narrative texts. |

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| **References** | **Materials** |
| * ***Lucy Calkins Units of Study for Teaching Writing, Grades 3-5, Book 3: Breathing Life Into Essays***, Lucy Calkins | * Writer’s notebooks * Anchor charts: * ***Comparing Narratives and Essays*** * ***Possible Essay Ideas*** * ***Smoky Night*,** Eve Bunting (don’t judge others unfairly) * ***Mr. Peabody’s Apples,*** Madonna Ritchie (don’t spread rumors) * ***Brave Irene,*** William Steig (be persistent in the face of obstacles) * ***Charlotte’s Web,*** E.B. White (good friends stick together) |

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| **Note** | * Post on the daily schedule or verbally ask students to bring their writer’s notebook and a pencil to the meeting area. |
| **Connection** | * Remind students that they have been studying personal essays to determine the important ideas and to generate their own possible essay ideas. Another source for collecting entries that can become essay ideas is narrative text. |
| **Demonstration/**  **Teaching** | * Explain that narratives often have important ideas, too, and that essay writers sometimes focus on an important idea from a story to help them think of possible essay ideas. * Demonstrate how to focus in on an important idea from one story, think about what this idea means to you, and recall three **experiences, observations, facts, events, and quotations** that can be used as **evidence** to support this important idea. * Record the important idea and **evidence** on your ***Possible Essay Ideas*** T-chart. |
| **Active Engagement** | * Explain to students that this important idea might remind them of **experiences, observations, facts, events, and quotations**, too. Give students time to think about what this idea means to them and share their ideas with a partner. * Have two or three students share their ideas with the class. Remind students to listen carefully because these ideas might spark other memories. * Have students open their writer’s notebooks and add the important idea and the related **experiences, observations, facts, events, and quotations** to their T-charts. * Have students continue to do this same work using one other narrative. Write the important idea from a familiar narrative on the ***Possible Essay Ideas*** chart and have students jot down this **evidence** in their writer’s notebooks. |
| **Link** | *Writers, today you will continue this work independently. You will look at two other stories, think about the important ideas, and recall related* ***experiences, observations, facts, events, and quotations*** *of your own. Then you will jot down these important ideas and evidence in your writer’s notebooks. Talk about your ideas with a partner today. Your ideas might spark memories for others, and their ideas might spark memories for you.* |
| **Writing and**  **Conferring** | * Conduct individual conferences to support students’ efforts at thinking of their own examples related to the important ideas in stories. |
| **Mid-Workshop Teaching Point** | *Writers, as you read other narrative texts, consider the important ideas in those stories, too. You may want to add these important ideas to your* ***Possible Essay Ideas*** chart and see if you can think of related evidence to support the ideas. |
| **Share** | * Convene students in the meeting area. * Bring closure to today’s workshop by having several students share essay ideas from their notebooks. Summarize the thinking the students used. * Have students recall and share one thing that they learned. |

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| **Session 4** | |
| **Concept** | Writers generate ideas for writing personal essays. |
| **Teaching Point** | Writers brainstorm essay ideas from the important ideas in their writer’s notebooks. |

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| **References** | **Materials** |
| * ***Lucy Calkins Units of Study for Teaching Writing, Grades 3-5, Book 3: Breathing Life Into Essays***, Lucy Calkins | * Writer’s notebooks * Anchor charts: * ***Comparing Narratives and Essays*** * ***Possible Essay Ideas*** |

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| **Note** | * Post on the daily schedule or verbally ask students to bring their writer’s notebook and a pencil to the meeting area. |
| **Connection** | * Remind students that they have been studying narrative texts to determine the important ideas and generate their own possible essay ideas. Another source for collecting entries that can become essay ideas is their own writer’s notebooks. |
| **Demonstration/**  **Teaching** | * Explain that students will look back in their writer’s notebooks today and look for important ideas that can become possible essay ideas. They can think of an important idea related to a notebook entry that they have already written to help them think of other possible essay ideas. * Demonstrate how you look through your own writer’s notebook, focus in on one entry, think of an important idea related to that entry, and recall three **experiences, observations, facts, events, and quotations** that can be used as **evidence** to support this important idea. * Record the important idea and **evidence** on your ***Possible Essay Ideas*** T-chart. |
| **Active Engagement** | * Explain to students that this important idea might remind them of three **experiences, observations, facts, events, and quotations** of their own. Give students time to think about what this idea means to them and share their ideas with a partner. * Have two or three students share their ideas with the class. Remind students to listen carefully because these ideas might spark other memories. * Have students add the important idea and their own related **experiences, observations, facts, events, and quotations** to their T-charts. * Demonstrate this process one more time with another example from your own writer’s notebook. |
| **Link** | *Writers, today you will continue this work independently. You will look at the entries in your own writer’s notebooks, think about the important idea related to these entries, and recall other related* ***experiences, observations, facts, events, and quotations****. Then you will jot down these important ideas and evidence in your writer’s notebooks. Talk about your ideas with a partner today. Your ideas might spark memories for others, and their ideas might spark memories for you.* |
| **Writing and**  **Conferring** | * Conduct individual conferences to support students’ efforts at thinking of new examples of **experiences observations, facts, events, and quotations** related to the important ideas in their notebook entries. * You might need to guide students in table conferences to do this work. Have them turn to a page where they wrote about events related to a person, place, or thing and about a first time, last time, or turning point. Help them think of related important ideas. |
| **Mid-Workshop Teaching Point** | *Writers, in order to keep you thinking of more ideas, take a few minutes to share your important ideas and related* ***evidence*** *with the other students at your tables. Add any new ideas that spark a memory to your own list.* |
| **Share** | * Convene students in the meeting area. * Bring closure to today’s workshop by having several students share essay ideas from their notebooks. Summarize the thinking the students used. * Have students recall and share one thing that they learned. |

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| **Session 5** | |
| **Concept** | Writers generate ideas for writing personal essays. |
| **Teaching Point** | Writers choose ideas and write **opinion statements** for their own personal essays. |

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| **References** | **Materials** |
| * ***Lucy Calkins Units of Study for Teaching Writing, Grades 3-5, Book 3: Breathing Life Into Essays***, Lucy Calkins | * Writer’s notebooks * Anchor charts: * ***Comparing Narratives and Essays*** * ***Possible Essay Ideas*** * ***Thought Prompts*** |

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| **Note** | * Post on the daily schedule or verbally ask students to bring their writer’s notebook and a pencil to the meeting area. |
| **Connection** | * Remind students that they have been studying many different texts to determine the important ideas and generate their own possible essay ideas. Today they will choose an important idea and related evidence from their ***Possible Essay Ideas*** T-chart to develop into a personal essay. |
| **Demonstration/**  **Teaching** | * Explain to students that they will be choosing an important idea that matters the most to them, one in which they have three different examples that they can use as evidence. * Demonstrate how you look through your list of ***Possible Essay Ideas*** and focus in on one important idea at a time. Then look at three related examples and think about how they support the important idea. * Position yourself as a “thinker” and a student as a “prompter” to demonstrate how you can push your thinking about your important idea. Begin by thinking aloud whatever thoughts you have about the important idea or the evidence. When you get stuck, the student suggests a thought prompt from the list to help you continue thinking in new ways about your ideas. * In this same way, students will be working with partners to help each other push their thinking about their important ideas and evidence. * Choose the idea that matters the most to you and record the important idea and the three related examples on a clean page in your writer’s notebook. |
| **Active Engagement** | * Have students open up their writer’s notebooks to their own ***Possible Essay Ideas*** *T-chart.* * Have students look at their first important idea on their ***Possible Essay Ideas*** page and think about how the three related examples support the important idea. * Encourage students to use thought prompts with a partner to push their thinking. * Have one or two students share their ideas with the class. |
| **Link** | *Writers, today you will continue to look at the ideas and related examples from your own* ***Possible Essay Ideas*** *chart and think about the one that matters the most to you. Then you will record this important idea and three related examples on a clean page in your own writer’s notebooks.* |
| **Writing and**  **Conferring** | * Conduct individual conferences to support students’ efforts at choosing the important idea that matters most to them. |
| **Mid-Workshop Teaching Point** | * Convene students in the meeting area.   *Writers, now that you have all decided on an idea for your personal essay, you need to think of your own* ***opinion****, or perspective, related to that important idea. Remember, an* ***opinion*** *is an important part of a personal essay. We need to turn our important ideas into* ***opinion statements****. As writers we can zoom in on an important idea and say,* ***The idea I have about this is…*** *For example:*   * *Important idea:* ***Don’t judge others unfairly.*** *Opinion statement:* ***People should give others a chance and not judge them unfairly.*** * *Important idea:* ***Be persistent in the face of obstacles.*** *Opinion statement:* ***I think people should be more persistent when they face obstacles in their lives.***   *Now it is time for you to turn your important ideas into your own* ***opinion statements****. Try writing your* ***opinion statements*** *three or four different ways until you find one that matches specifically what you want to say in your essay.* |
| **Share** | * Convene students in the meeting area. * Bring closure to today’s workshop by having several students share their **important ideas** and **opinion statements**, or perspectives, with the class. Summarize the thinking the students used. * Have students recall and share one thing that they learned. |

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| **Thought Prompts** |
| * **The thought I have about this is …** * **In other words …** * **The surprising thing about this is …** * **This makes me realize …** * **Another way to look at this is …** * **In my experience …** * **The evidence that I have for this is …** * **This is true because …** * **The real issue here is …** |

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| **Session 6** | |
| **Concept** | Writers generate ideas for writing personal essays. |
| **Teaching Point** | Writers use Boxes and Bullets to organize their ideas for a personal essay. |

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| **References** | **Materials** |
| * ***Lucy Calkins Units of Study for Teaching Writing, Grades 3-5, Book 3: Breathing Life Into Essays***, Lucy Calkins | * Writer’s notebooks * Anchor charts: * ***Comparing Narratives and Essays*** * ***Boxes and Bullets*** * ***Parallel Structures*** |

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| **Connection** | * Explain that writers need to know how an essay is organized in order to be able to write an essay of their own. |
| **Demonstration/**  **Teaching** | * Introduce ***Boxes and Bullets*** as a way for students to organize their ideas for their personal essays. * Demonstrate how to record your position statement, or **point of view,** in the box and the three **parallel supporting reasons** next to the bullets on the organizer. Choose **linking words and phrases** from the ***Parallel Structures*** chart for recording your reasons. |
| **Active Engagement** | * Do this same work using the essay ideas from a student volunteer. Have the class work together with you to record the **point of view** and **reasons** on a class-sized ***Boxes and Bullets*** organizer. |
| **Link** | *Writers, today you will do this same work independently using your own ideas. You will need to draw your own Boxes and Bullets organizer in your writer’s notebooks. Make them big enough to hold your ideas. Write your* ***point of view*** *in the box and then list your three* ***reasons*** *using a parallel structure next to the bullets.* |
| **Writing and**  **Conferring** | * Conduct individual conferences to support students’ efforts at using ***Boxes and Bullets*** to organize their ideas. |
| **Share** | * Convene students in the meeting area. * Bring closure to today’s workshop by having several students read their **point of view** and three **parallel supporting reasons** with the class. Summarize the thinking the students used. * Have students recall and share one thing that they learned. |

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| **Boxes and Bullets** |
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| **Parallel Structures** |
| * ***One reason why I think/believe this is because …***   ***Another reason why I think/believe this is because …***  ***A final reason why I think/believe this is because …***   * ***One example of … is …***   ***Another examples of … is …***  ***A third example of … is …***   * ***One time I …***   ***The second time I …***  ***The last time I …***   * ***One way that …***   ***Another way that …***  ***One more way that …***   * ***One person who …***   ***Another person who …***  ***A third person who …***   * ***The first …that I observed was …***   ***The second … that I observed was …***  ***The third … that I observed was …*** |

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| **Session 7** | |
| **Concept** | Writers learn strategies for good personal essay writing. |
| **Teaching Point** | Writers use their point of view to create essay introductions. |

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| **References** | **Materials** |
| * ***Lucy Calkins Units of Study for Teaching Writing, Grades 3-5, Book 3: Breathing Life Into Essays***, Lucy Calkins | * Writer’s notebooks * Writing folders and writing paper * Anchor charts: * ***Comparing Narratives and Essays*** * ***Boxes and Bullets*** * ***Ways to Start an Essay*** * Sample essay ***“Practice and Hard Work: The Keys to Success”*** |

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| **Connection** | * Explain to students that they will be using their writing folders and paper instead of their writer’s notebook as they begin writing their essay today. * Explain that essay writers use the introduction to convey to readers that the ideas in the essay are important. It is essential that writers reach for precise words to capture their thoughts. We will use the following structure in our introductions: * **The first sentence focuses the reader’s attention on the important idea.** * **The middle sentence(s) elaborate on the important idea.** * **The last sentence states the point of view.** * Refer to the sample essay, ***“Practice and Hard Work: The Keys to Success***.” |
| **Demonstration/**  **Teaching** | * Introduce the ***Ways to Start an Essay*** chart. * Demonstrate how to write the first sentence of your own essay several ways by using each essay starter. * Decide which essay starter works the best for the first sentence of your essay. * Write three or four more sentences that elaborate on your important idea. * End your introduction with a sentence that states your point of view. * Read your introduction to make sure that you like the way it sounds. Rewrite the parts that need revision. |
| **Active Engagement** | * Do this same work using the important idea from a student volunteer. Have the class work together with you to try out different essay starters, choose the one that works the best, elaborate on the important idea, and then state the point of view. Read it over and rewrite parts that need revision. |
| **Link** | *Writers, today you will do this same work independently using your own essay ideas. Remember, try out different essay starters and choose the one that works the best. Elaborate by writing two or more sentences and then state your point of view. Read over your introduction to make sure that you like the way it sounds. Rewrite the parts that need revision.* |
| **Writing and**  **Conferring** | * Conduct individual conferences to support students’ efforts at writing their introductions. |
| **Mid-Workshop Teaching Point** | * Have students share their introductions with a partner. |
| **Share** | * Convene students in the meeting area. * Bring closure to today’s workshop by having several students read their introductions. Summarize the thinking the students used. * Have students recall and share one thing that they learned. |

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| **Ways to Start an Essay** |
| * **Many people think … I think …** * **Many people (do) … I (do) …** * **I used to think … Now I realize …** * **I used to (do) … Now I (do) …** * **In the world, people often … People should …** * **I used to wonder why … Now I know …** * **It might seem that … But the truth is that …** * **It has been said that … But in reality …** |

Practice and Hard Work: The Keys to Success

**I used to think** that just because you wanted to be good at something, you would be good at it. I didn’t always show up for soccer practice, because I didn’t think it was necessary. I never got any better at kicking or passing the ball because I didn’t spend time practicing. Now I know that you have to practice and work hard if you want to be good at something.

**One person who understands the importance of practice and hard word is Michael Jordan.** As a kid, famed basketball player Michael Jordan was heartbroken when he heard that he had not made his high school basketball team. He was so heartbroken that he spent most of his free time that summer practicing on the basketball court. The next time he tried out for that team, because of all that practice, he made it. He ended up being one of the best basketball players in the world. Michael once stated, “I’ve always believed that if you put in the work, the results will come.”

**Another person who understands the importance of practice and hard work is Pedro Martinez.** Pedro Martinez, a major league baseball player, was the pitcher for the Boston Red Sox. When he was asked for tips by a reporter, he said, “Just play. Play every day. Work hard and understand that it isn’t going to be easy.” Hard work and playing every day are the best ways to improve in a sport. He should know. That is what Pedro did to be such a great pitcher.

**A third person who understands the importance of practice and hard work is Mia Hamm.** Mia Hamm and her soccer team won the Gold Medal in the 1996 Olympics. When she was young, she kept quitting soccer because she hated to lose. Then she realized that in order to get better, you have to work hard and keep playing. Mia Hamm once said, “The backbone to success is usually found in old-fashioned, basic concepts like hard work, determination, good planning, and perseverance.”

**Now I realize** that things won’t just happen because you want them to. That would be too easy. If you want something, you have to practice and work hard at it. It doesn’t always mean that you will reach your dreams, but you won’t even have a chance if you don’t try.

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| **Session 8** | |
| **Concept** | Writers learn strategies for good personal essay writing. |
| **Teaching Point** | Writers include **angled evidence** as support for their point of view. |

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| **References** | **Materials** |
| * ***Lucy Calkins Units of Study for Teaching Writing, Grades 3-5, Book 3: Breathing Life Into Essays***, Lucy Calkins | * Writing folders * Anchor charts: * ***Comparing Narratives and Essays*** * ***Boxes and Bullets*** * Sample essay ***“Practice and Hard Work: The Keys to Success”*** |

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| **Note** | * Plan to spend two or three days on this session. You may need to devote one day for each **angled** body paragraph**.** |
| **Connection** | * Explain that essay writers use their evidence to support their point of view in the three body paragraphs. Writers don’t just retell these **experiences observations, facts, events, and quotations**; they **angle** them to support their point of view. |
| **Demonstration/**  **Teaching** | * Remind students how to write focused stories and demonstrate as follows: * Make a movie in your mind, indent, and write a paragraph that explains how the **experience,** **observation, fact, event, or quotation** unfolds step-by-step. * Highlight **only** the parts that closely support your point of view. This is how you **angle** your evidence. * Include a sentence or two at the end of the paragraph that explains how the **evidence** illustrates the point of view. * Keep the evidence brief by including just the most **relevant** parts of the **evidence** and by leaving out details. * Refer to the sample essay, ***“Practice and Hard Work: The Keys to Success,”*** which uses quotations as evidence |
| **Active Engagement** | * Do this same work using the essay idea from a student volunteer. Have the class work together with you and the volunteer to compose **angled evidence** that supports the point of view. |
| **Link** | *Writers, today you will do this same work independently using your own essay ideas. Remember that when you compose your* ***angled evidence,*** *you need to keep the evidence brief by including just the most* ***relevant*** *parts of the* ***experiences,* observations, facts, events, and quotations*.*** |
| **Writing and**  **Conferring** | * Conduct individual conferences to support students’ efforts at composing their **angled evidence.** |
| **Mid-Workshop Teaching Point** | * Have students share their **angled evidence** with a partner. |
| **Share** | * Convene students in the meeting area. * Bring closure to today’s workshop by having several students read their **angled evidence**. Summarize the thinking the students used. * Have students recall and share one thing that they learned. |

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| **Session 9** | |
| **Concept** | Writers learn strategies for good personal essay writing. |
| **Teaching Point** | Writers create essay conclusions that link back to their point of view. |

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| **References** | **Materials** |
| * ***Lucy Calkins Units of Study for Teaching Writing, Grades 3-5, Book 3: Breathing Life Into Essays***, Lucy Calkins | * Writing folders * Anchor charts: * ***Comparing Narratives and Essays*** * ***Ways to End an Essay*** * Sample essay ***“Practice and Hard Work: The Keys to Success”*** |

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| **Connection** | * Explain that essay writers use the conclusion to **link back to their point of view**. Use the following structure in your conclusions: * **The first sentence links back to the evidence.** * **The middle sentences elaborate by reflecting back or looking ahead.** * **The last sentence leaves the reader with a memorable thought.** * Refer to the ***Ways to End an Essay*** chart**.** * Refer to the sample essay, ***“Practice and Hard Work: the Keys to Success.”*** |
| **Demonstration/**  **Teaching** | * Demonstrate how to write each sentence in the conclusion using your own essay. |
| **Active Engagement** | * Do this same work using the essay idea from a student volunteer. Have the class work together with you and the volunteer to create a conclusion that **links back to the student’s point of view.** |
| **Link** | *Writers, today you will do this same work independently using your own essay ideas. Remember, try out different essay conclusions and choose the one that works the best. Make sure that your conclusion* ***links back to your point of view.*** |
| **Writing and**  **Conferring** | * Conduct individual conferences to support students’ efforts at writing their conclusions. |
| **Mid-Workshop Teaching Point** | * Have students share their conclusions with a partner. |
| **Share** | * Convene students in the meeting area. * Bring closure to today’s workshop by having several students read their conclusions. Summarize the thinking the students used. * Have students recall and share one thing that they learned. |

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| **Ways to End an Essay** |
| * **As I look back on these experiences, I realize …** * **I learned that …** * **Now I know that …** * **I know one thing for sure …** * **From now on …** * **I will always …** * **I finally understand why …** * **Therefore …** * **In conclusion …** * **As a result …** |

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| **Session 10** | |
| **Concept** | Writers learn strategies for revising their personal essays. |
| **Teaching Point** | Writers **revise their personal essays for meaning and clarity**. |

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| **References** | **Materials** |
| * ***Lucy Calkins Units of Study for Teaching Writing, Grades 3-5, Book 3: Breathing Life Into Essays***, Lucy Calkins | * Writing folders * Anchor chart: * ***Comparing Narratives and Essays*** |

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| **Connection** | * Honor student writing by complimenting their focused efforts in creating their personal essays. * Explain that today students will be rereading their essays to make sure that their **point of** **view is clearly stated** and that their **evidence supports their point of view.** |
| **Demonstration/**  **Teaching** | * Demonstrate how to revise for meaning and clarity as you: * Reread your essay aloud to yourself one paragraph at a time. Make sure that the information in each paragraph all goes together and all supports the point of view. **Rewrite parts that need revision.** * Then read your essay aloud to a partner. Have your partner identify the **point of view** after listening to your introduction. Then, have your partner explain how the evidence supports the point of view after listening to each body paragraph. **Rewrite parts that need revision.** |
| **Active Engagement** | * Do this same work using the essay idea from a student volunteer. Have the class work together with you and the volunteer to rewrite parts that need revision. |
| **Link** | *So writers, today you will read your essay twice. Read it first to yourself to make sure that your evidence supports your point of view. Then read it to your partner. Your partner will identify the point of view and explain how the evidence supports the point of view. R****ewrite parts that need revision****.* |
| **Writing and**  **Conferring** | * Conduct individual student conferences to make sure that the students are **rewriting the parts that need revision.** |
| **Share**  *Choose one* | * Bring closure to today’s workshop by having one or two students who revised a part of their essay that lacked clarity and meaning share with the class. * Have students recall and share one thing that they learned. |

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| **Session 11** | |
| **Concept** | Writers learn strategies for editing their personal essays. |
| **Teaching Point** | Writers use **revision/editing checklists** to edit their writing. |

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| **References** | **Materials** |
| * ***Lucy Calkins Units of Study for Teaching Writing, Grades 3-5, Book 3: Breathing Life Into Essays***, Lucy Calkins | * Writing folders * Revision/Editing Checklist for each student * Chart-sized Revision/Editing Checklist |

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| **Note** | * Put a ***Revision/Editing Checklist*** inside each student’s writing folder. |
| **Connection** | * Explain that students have been learning strategies that writers use to write personal essays. Today students will learn strategies they can use to edit their writing. |
| **Demonstration/**  **Teaching** | * Demonstrate how to use each item on the ***Revision/Editing Checklist*** as a **lens** by rereading your own essay through that **lens**. * Read the first item on the checklist (Will this make sense to a stranger?) * Pretend you know nothing about the essay idea. Read and mark places that are confusing. * Go back and rewrite those parts so they are clearer. |
| **Active Engagement** | * Continue reading through the **lens** of each item on the ***Revision/Editing Checklist,*** and then edit your essay with the students’ input. |
| **Link** | *So writers, as you work today, find the* ***Revision/Editing Checklist*** *in your writing folders and use each item as a* ***lens*** *when you edit your own essays. Reread with that* ***lens*** *and revise or edit your work. This is your last chance to make the writing as perfect as you can get it.* |
| **Writing and**  **Conferring** | * Conduct individual student conferences to support students’ efforts using a ***Revision/Editing Checklist***. |
| **Share** | * Have students show each other what they’ve done, what they’ve learned, and what they’ve resolved to do next. |
| **Note** | Say, *Tonight I’m going to look over the personal essays that you’ve edited today. I’ll be your copy editor. Tomorrow, every minute of the day will be reserved for making final copies of our personal essays.* |

***Personal Essay Revision/Editing Checklist***

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Reread your writing carefully. Put a check in each box under **Author** as you complete each

item. Once all the boxes are checked, give this checklist to the teacher for the final edit.

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| **Revise and edit for the following:** | **Author** | **Teacher** |
| **1. Clarity.** Ask yourself,  “Is my point of view clearly stated?”  “Does my evidence support my point of view?”  Rewrite parts that need revision. |  |  |
| **2. Effective use of words, phrases, and clauses.** Ask yourself,  “Have I used the most effective words, phrases, and clauses?”  Rewrite parts to make your writing better.  Choose more effective words and add necessary details. |  |  |
| **3. Inappropriate use of fragments and run-on sentences.**  Check to make sure that each sentence is complete.  Rewrite fragments and run-on sentences so they are complete  sentences. |  |  |
| **4. Capitalization.** Look for correct use of capital letters.  Use capitals at the beginning of each sentence and for every name.  Make corrections if necessary. |  |  |
| **5. Punctuation.** Look for correct use of ending punctuation/commas.  Use periods, exclamation points, and question marks.  Use commas with introductory phrases, clauses, and conjunctions.  Make corrections if necessary. |  |  |
| **6. Spelling of grade-appropriate words.** Check your spelling.  Refer to various resources.  Make corrections if necessary. |  |  |

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| **Sessions 12 and 13** | |
| **Concept** | Writers publish and share their personal essays. |
| **Teaching Point** | A writing community celebrates. |

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| **References** | **Materials** |
| * ***Assessing Writers***, Carl Anderson * ***Notebook Know-How: Strategies for the Writer’s Notebook****,* Aimee Buckner * ***Lucy Calkins Units of Study for Teaching Writing, Grades 3-5, Book 3: Breathing Life Into Essays***, Lucy Calkins | * Writer’s notebooks |

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| **Day 12**  **Publishing** | * Have students rewrite their revised and edited personal essays. |
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| **Day 13**  **Celebration** | * Plan to celebrate the fact that writing gives us new eyes to see and understand ourselves. Students have grown taller as writers. Their notebooks are fuller. Their texts are longer. Their voices are stronger. Take a moment to look all students in the eyes and help them feel celebrated. * Have authors read their essays aloud in small groups, leave a little bit of time for silence to let the essay sink in, and then have the authors answer just one writing question. * Post student writing to celebrate the achievements of each student. * Assess students’ personal essays using the ***Personal Essay Assessment Rubric***. * Consider assessing the students’ writer’s notebooks. |

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| **Personal Essay Conferring Checklist** | |
| Student Name: | |
| Generating ideas:  **Lists important ideas and evidence.** |  |
| Generating ideas:  **Brainstorms essay ideas from personal essays.** |  |
| Writing Strategy:  **Brainstorms essay ideas from narrative texts.** |  |
| Writing Strategy  **Brainstorms essay ideas from writer’s notebook.** |  |
| Writing Strategy:  **Chooses an idea and writes an opinion statement.** |  |
| Writing Strategy:  **Uses Boxes and Bullets to organize essay ideas.** |  |
| Revision Strategy:  **Tries out different introductions.** |  |
| Writing Strategy:  **Angles evidence to support a point of view.** |  |
| Revision Strategy:  **Tries out different conclusions.** |  |
| Revision Strategy:  **Revises essay for meaning and clarity.** |  |
| Editing Strategy:  **Uses a revision/editing checklist.** |  |

**Personal Essay Assessment Rubric**

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|  | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| **Ideas** | The writer develops an exceptionally strong, clear, point of view about a meaningful topic or idea. | The writer develops a generally clear point of view about a meaningful topic or idea. | The writer develops a somewhat clear point of view about a somewhat meaningful topic or idea. | The writer develops a weak point of view about a less important topic or idea. |
| **Content** | The ideas are extensively developed and supported in body paragraphs. Relevant evidence is angled to support the point of view. | The ideas are developed and supported in body paragraphs. Evidence is angled to support the point of view. | The ideas are underdeveloped and weakly supported in body paragraphs. Evidence somewhat supports the point of view. | The ideas are not developed or supported in body paragraphs. Evidence does not support the point of view. |
| **Organization** | The writing is exceptionally clear and organized. Includes an introduction, 2-3 body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Linking words and phrases and parallel structure are used effectively. | The writing is generally clear and organized. Includes an introduction, 2-3 body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Linking words and phrases and parallel structure are used. | The writing shows little evidence of organization. One or two of the following may be missing: an introduction, 2-3 body paragraphs, a conclusion, linking words and phrases, or parallel structure. | The writing lacks recognizable organization. Three or more of the following may be missing: an introduction, body paragraphs, a conclusion, linking words and phrases, or parallel structure. |
| **Style** | The writing includes an effective use of words and phrases and a clear connection between point of view and evidence. | The writing includes a somewhat effective use of words and phrases and a connection between point of view and evidence. | The writing includes a basic use of words and phrases and a minimal connection between point of view and evidence. | The writing includes an ineffective use of words and phrases and no connection between point of view and evidence. |
| **Conventions** | The writing includes an effective control over language use and mastery of conventions. Paragraphs are indented. | The writing includes some control over language use and mastery of conventions. Paragraphs are indented. | The writing includes limited control over language use and mastery of conventions. Few paragraphs are indented. | The writing includes minimal control over language use and mastery of conventions. No paragraphs are indented. |