

# Introduction

*Just Write 3: Creativity and Craft in Writing* covers the four main writing styles that are essential to curriculum and standardized assessment in the upper elementary grades. Each will be useful to students at different times and for different reasons. The rules often overlap, but the tone of each one—narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive—should be distinct in students' writing.

*Narrative writing* includes fictional and nonfiction stories, and personal histories. Examples are fairy tales, biographies, and newspaper stories. Narrative writing tells the story of something or someone real or imaginary.

*Descriptive writing* focuses on describing a person, place, or thing, using the five senses. Poems can be examples of descriptive writing. Descriptive writing paints a mental picture for the reader.

*Expository writing* is meant to show something new to readers. It gives information about a topic like a period in history, a scientific discovery, or a significant individual. Information reports and paragraph summaries are examples of expository writing. Lists and directions are also expository writing.

*Persuasive writing* means trying to convince someone of something as a result of your writing. Letters to the editor and advertisements are two types of persuasive writing.

Reading and writing go hand in hand. Throughout the book, writing models and reading response questions encourage students to make reading–writing connections. Planning and revision-oriented exercises support a process approach to writing while helping students improve presentation and style. Topics include:

- Single- and multiparagraph organization
- Paragraph transitions
- Sequence and chronological order
- Word choice
- Establishing audience and purpose
- Fact and opinion

Writing is a way to communicate and learn. When writing, authors must sort through many ideas and impressions to choose the words and writing style that will best convey their message. There are many different types of writing, just as there are many reasons to write.

# The Writing Process

## 1. Plan story using a story web or map

### A. Main Characters

1. Names, descriptions

### B. Setting

- C. When and where your story will take place

### D. Main idea/problem

- E. Brief notes on the beginning, middle, and end of the story

## 2. Writing

### A. First paragraph: introduction

1. **Introduce main characters and setting**
2. **Present main idea of the story**

### B. Second paragraph: begin action

1. **Introduce and explain the problem**

### C. Middle paragraph(s)

1. **Action continues around problem**

### D. Last paragraph: conclusion

1. **How is problem handled?**
2. **What is the final result?**
3. **Wrap up story**

## 3. Revising, Editing, and Publishing

### A. Read story out loud

### B. Make necessary changes by following chapter 5

### C. Expand content

### D. Correct punctuation and spelling

### E. Read story aloud again

### F. Bind story into a book using classroom materials

# Content Checklist



Read the story you have chosen again. Then look at the items in this checklist. You don't always have to include everything, but use this list as a guide to help make sure your story is the best it can be.

- Does your story have a clear topic?
- Does the sequence of the story make sense?
- Have you included at least two or three interesting details about your characters?
- Did you show your characters' feelings about what is happening?
- Did you include dialogue?
- Did you tell where or when the story took place?
- a Do your characters have to deal with a problem?
- Did you include any of the five senses?
- a Did you make good word choices?
- Did you use any comparisons?
- Do you have an interesting conclusion to your story?

# Editing Checklist

- Did you use a capital letter at the beginning of each sentence?  
For names and titles?
- Is there the correct punctuation at the end of each sentence?
- Did you indent your paragraphs?
- Did you use complete sentences?
- Did you put quotation marks around what each person says?
- Did each speaker start on a new line?
- Is your handwriting clear and easy to read?
- Did you correct or underline misspelled words?

On the page that has your story, mark any changes you need to make. Try to write neatly so that you can still read your story easily after you make the changes. Be sure you've added all the new words you want to include. Fix your spelling, punctuation, and capitals if you need to. Then read your story out loud again. Make sure your new changes make sense.