

WRITER'S WORKSHOP

April 10, 2019

K-4th Grade

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LOWER SCHOOL WRITER'S WORKSHOP IN ACTION

- https://onealschoolmy.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/kmsmith_onealschool_org/EaQBUNnQkE9IoP7r5EydQBEB3PyXaqQNAIsh0y5S4f82Q?e=IF3pcQ

THE WORKSHOP APPROACH

- The Units of Study: Each unit of study represents about six weeks of teaching. Each grade level teaches the same units. Units include: opinion, information, and narrative.
- Within those six weeks, the unit supports several cycles of drafting, revision, and publication.
- The units align with the three types of writing that are predominant in world-class standards.

THE WORKSHOP APPROACH

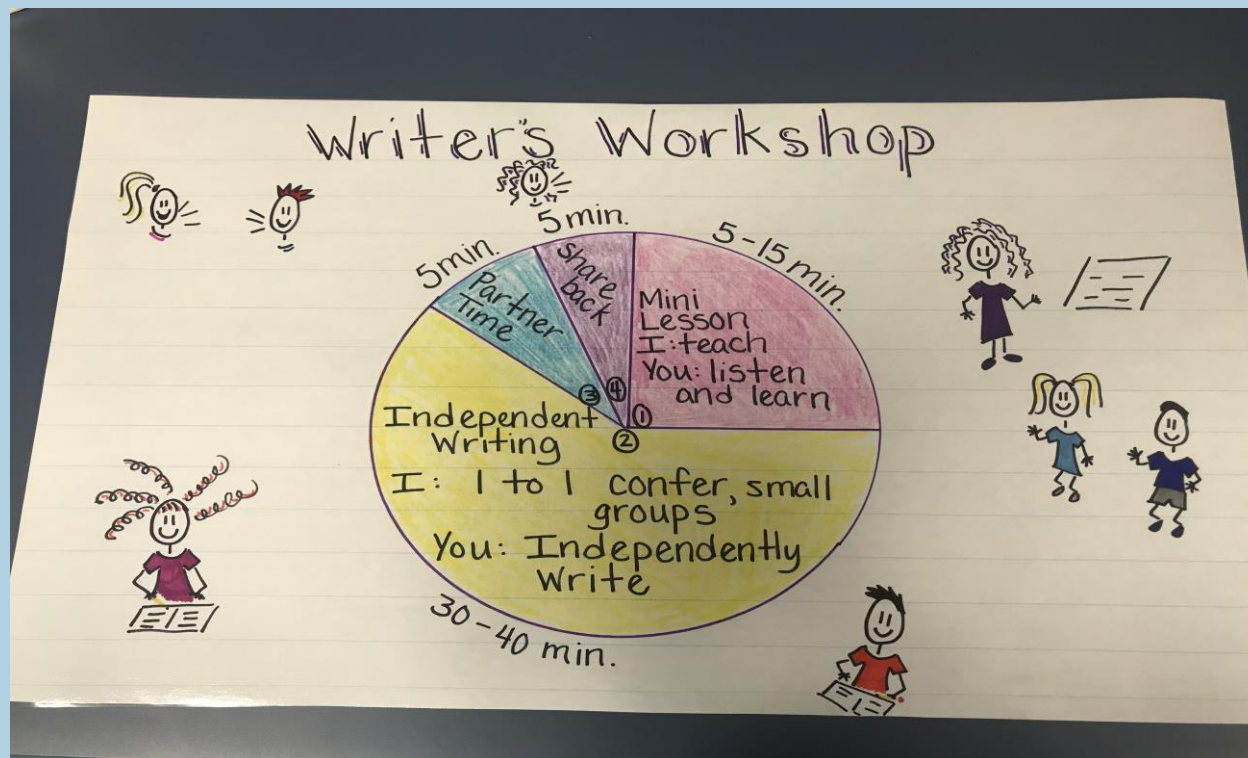
- Vertical alignment is key in the curriculum so that people who teach at any one grade level can count on students entering their classrooms with some foundational skills that they can build on (just like in math).
- Instruction builds on itself in this series.
- Same format and units of study are used in K-8th grade

GOALS OF WRITER'S WORKSHOP

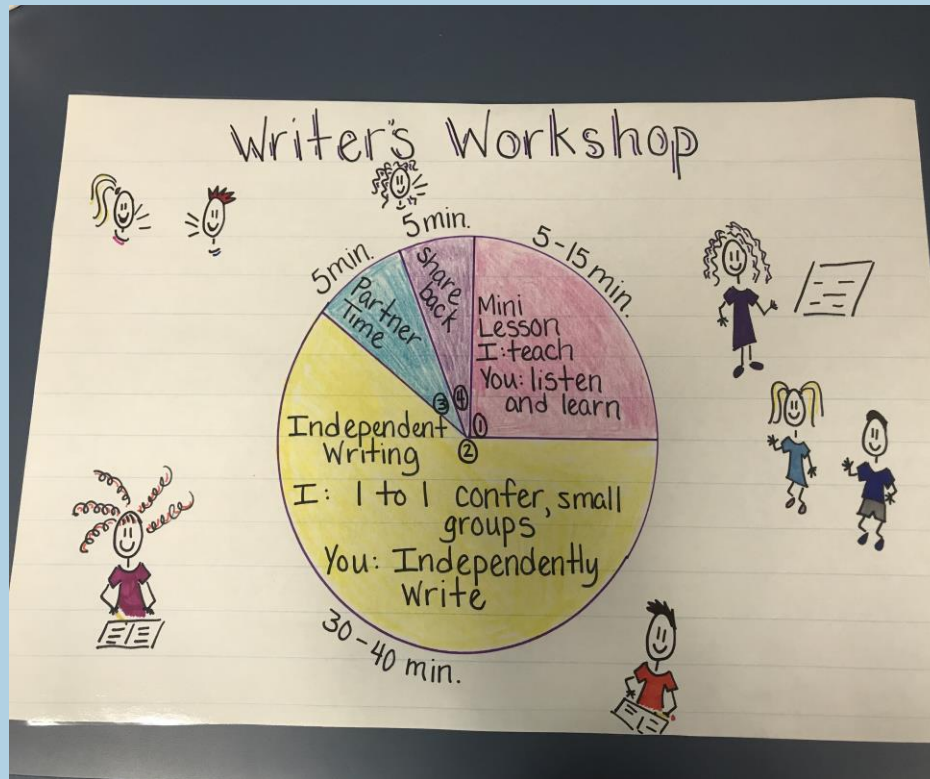
- To help students see writing as a way of telling about things
- To develop students' fluency in writing
- To provide opportunities for students to learn to use grammar and mechanics in the context of their own writing
- To help students learn about specific forms (genres) of writing during focused instruction to ensure that writers are supported in order to maintain their motivation and self-confidence

THE WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

- Mini Lesson
- Independent Writing
- Conferencing
- Share



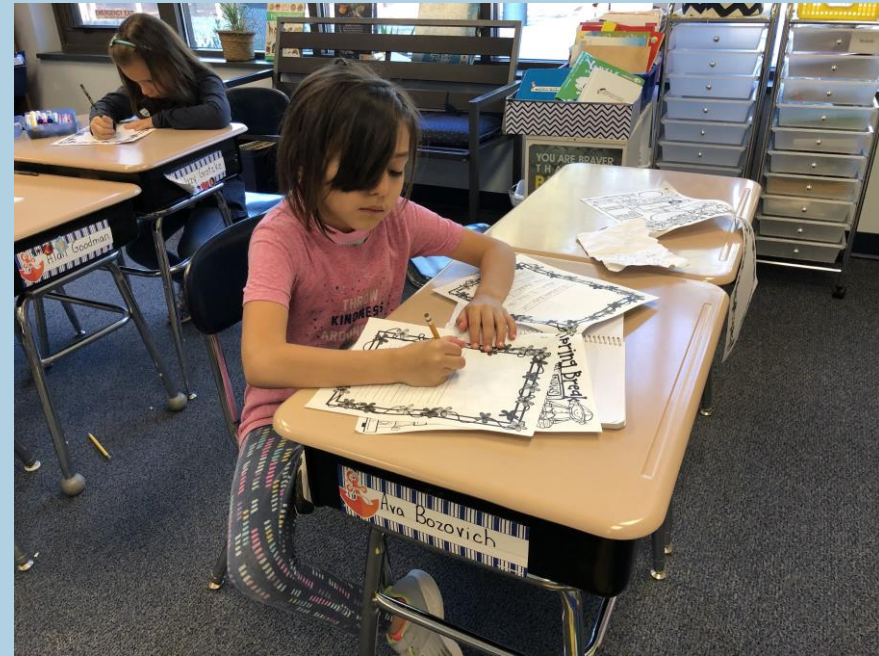
MINI LESSONS



- Mini Lessons are when teachers direct teach and model different aspects of writing
- These might include lessons on writing procedures, craft, or mechanics
- These may also include using books or teacher/student writing to model skills

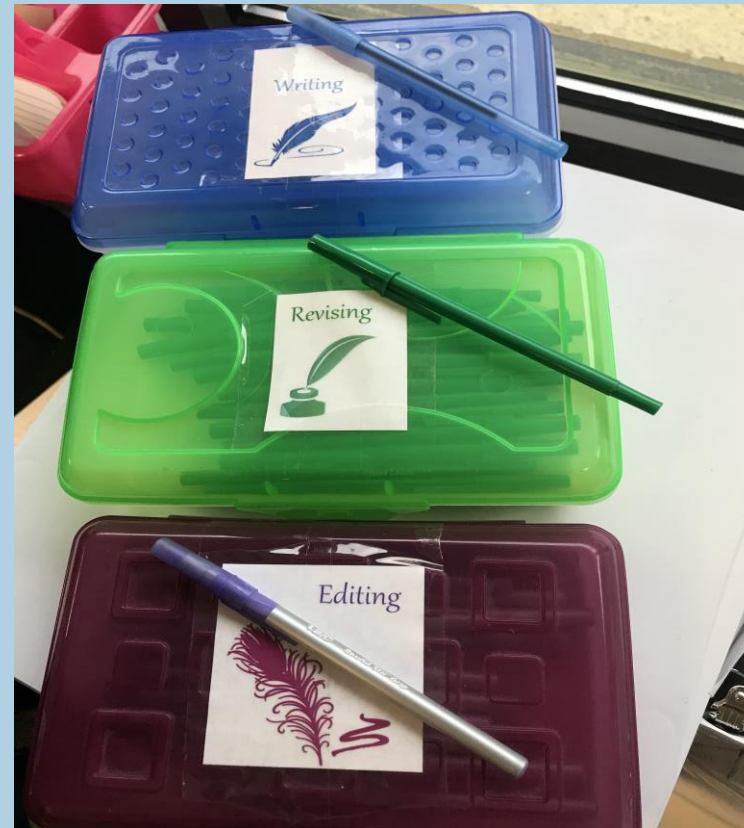
MINI LESSONS: CRAFT

- Craft of writing deals with content:
 - How do you write a strong lead?
 - How do you write a powerful conclusion?
 - How do you narrow your focus?
- Use children's literature as mentor texts for modeling

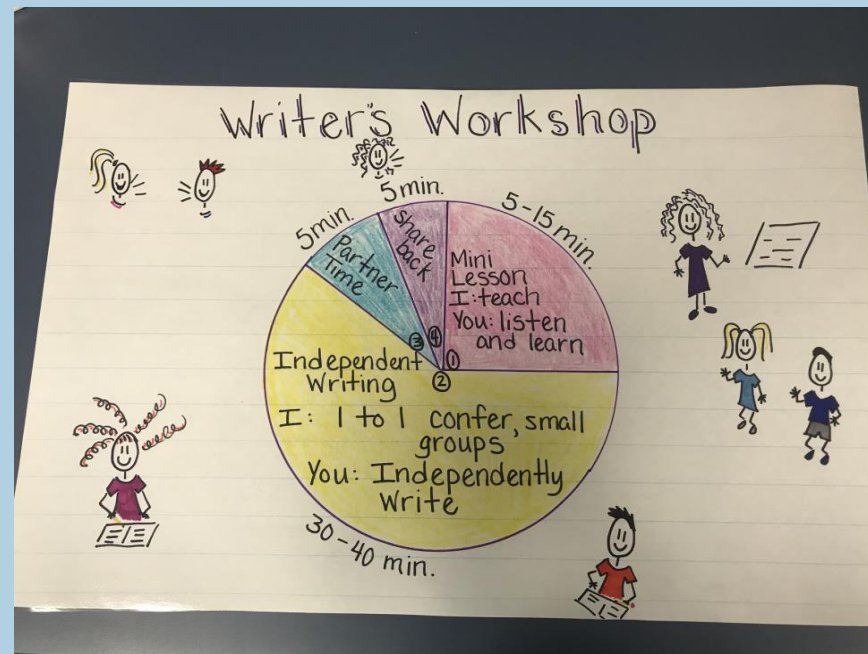


MINI LESSONS CONVENTIONS: GRAMMAR AND MECHANICS

- Students and teachers model using mechanics/grammar and editing mechanics in writing rather than simply “telling” students about mechanics
- Get away from practice of having students practice mechanics in unrelated writing tasks
- Model using mechanics in teacher modeled writing

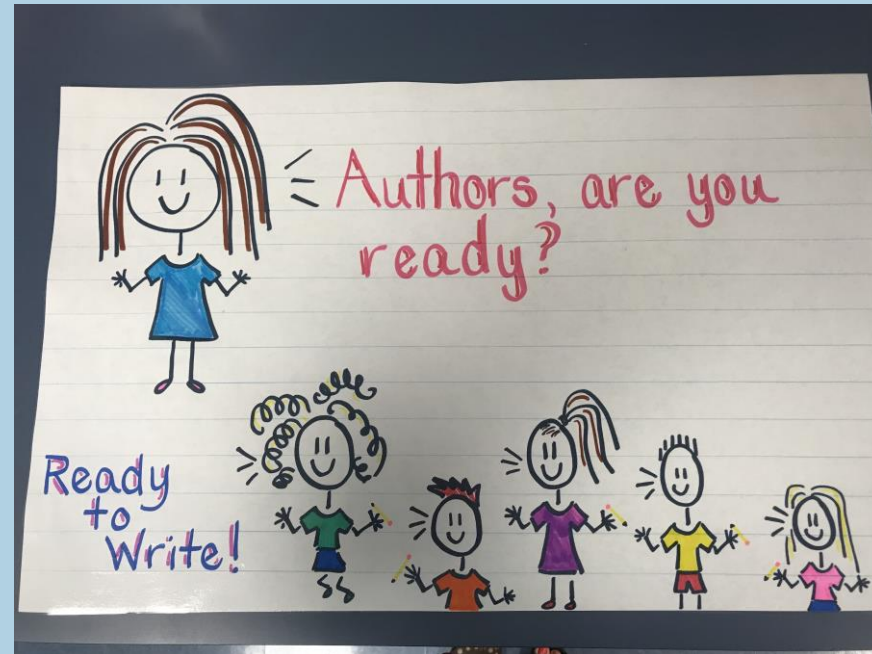


INDEPENDENT WRITING



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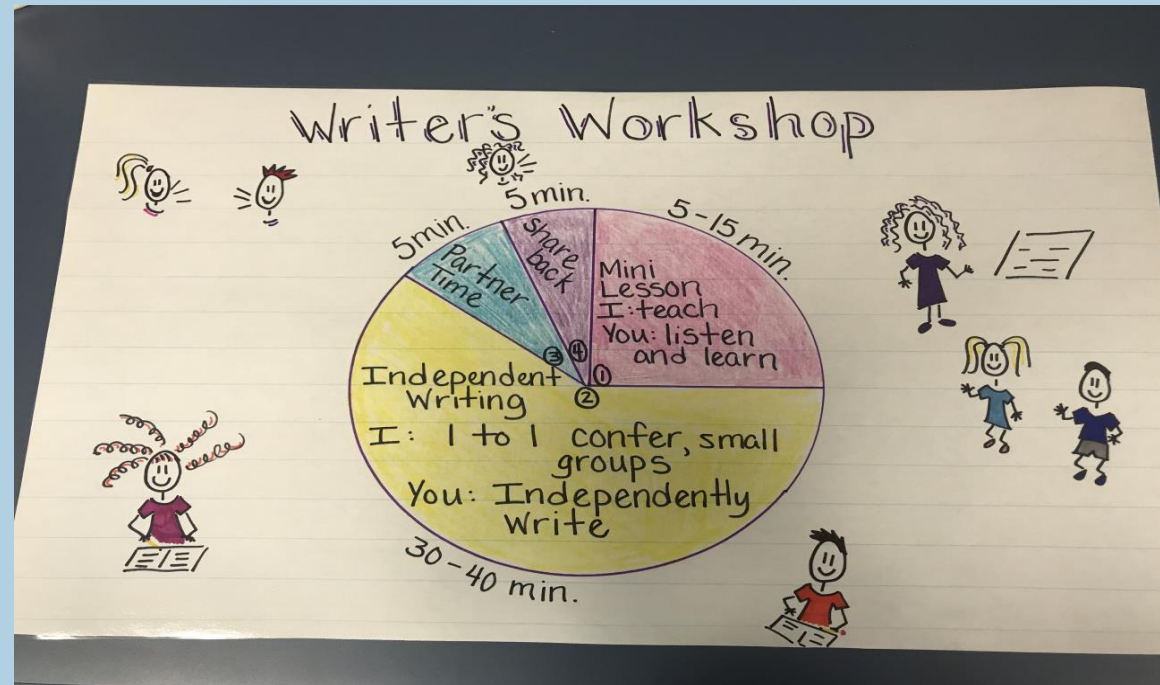
- Students spend their time writing at various stages in the writing process: planning, drafting, revising, editing, or publishing
- Students spend most of their time on **topics of their choice**
- **Students do not publish everything they write**
- Students work as writers work using the materials writers need



CONFERENCES

- The teacher conducts individual conferences to differentiate the instruction and provide multilevel support for the students.
- Conferences are held every time writing occurs.
- A conference provides a weekly opportunity to assess student progress and make appropriate instructional decisions.
- Types: Roving Conferences, Individual Student/Teacher Conferences, Teacher Scheduled Small Group Conferences, Peer Conferences, Teacher Drop-In Conferences

SHARE



SHARING

- “We write to be read.” – Atwell, 2002
- Many students will write just for the opportunity to share with classmates.
- Sharing time is a critical component of the writing workshop.
- Students share parts of their writing pieces in progress or read their latest published works.



GRADE LEVEL PROGRESSION

- We would love to invite you to visit classrooms in order to see the workshop in action at each grade level!
- You will see students at various places within the stages of writing.
- Please try and spend a few minutes in each grade level K-4th
- Please start in your child's grade and move either up or down. Be sure to visit at least one classroom from each grade!
- Talk to the kids, check out the walls, ask questions!!

ENJOY!

- “And by the way, everything in life is writable about if you have the outgoing guts to do it, and the imagination to improvise. The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt.” — Sylvia Plath