

Text Types II

Course Overview

Beable’s Text Types II course is designed to empower students with the tools needed to excel in various forms of written expression. Through a series of engaging lessons and carefully selected exemplar texts, students explore the following:

**Step-by-Step
Success:
Mastering How-to
Writing**

**Uncovering the
Facts: Writing
Informational
Reports**

**The Scoop:
Writing Engaging
News Articles**

**Bringing Lives to
Life: Writing
Biographies**

**The Editorial
Board: Writing
Persuasive
Opinions**

**Convince Me!
Writing
Persuasive Essays**

**Storytelling
Adventures:
Crafting Short
Stories**

**Sharing Your
Journey: Writing
Personal
Narratives**

**Research Writing:
Historical
Detectives**

**Exploring History
Through Primary
Sources**

**The Book Critic:
Sharing Your
Opinions**

**Poetry in Motion:
Analyzing and
Reviewing Poems**

Each text type unit begins with an introductory lesson that explains its key elements, unique characteristics, structures, and purposes. These lessons provide students with instructions on how to craft effective pieces within that particular style of writing. By studying these diverse text types, students will develop critical thinking skills, enhance their ability to communicate complex ideas, and gain a deeper understanding of how to adapt their writing for different audiences and purposes.

Students explore text types through their online readings, and teachers extend that learning through Lesson Extensions and activities, Journal Reflections, and genre-specific writing.

Note: The unit and lesson overviews on the following pages include student writing prompts. Feel free to use these prompts or create your own as students work to master the art of writing.

Step-by-Step Success: Mastering How-to Writing

This unit teaches students to write clear and effective how-to guides through engaging lessons and model readings. Learning how-to writing is crucial, as it develops informative/explanatory writing skills. Students will learn to organize their thoughts, use precise language, and communicate effectively.

Lesson Titles*

1. How-to Guide: "Step by Step: Creating Crystal-Clear Instructions"
2. How to Start a School Club
3. How to Organize Your Backpack
4. How to Create a Podcast
5. How to Train Your Puppy

* Draft Titles

Writing Practice

Students will choose a task they are familiar with and write a how-to guide for it. This activity is designed to help students develop their ability to write clear and concise instructional texts. By breaking down the task into simple steps and using precise language, students will enhance their ability to communicate instructions effectively.

Student Prompt:

Write a fun and detailed how-to guide about a hobby or activity you enjoy. Include an introduction about why this activity is special to you. Then provide instructions to others on how to do it. Use the tips from the introductory lesson to help you write clear and easy-to-follow instructions.

Uncovering the Facts: Writing Informational Reports

This unit is designed to teach students to write clear and concise informational reports. Through a series of engaging exemplar text lessons, students will learn the art of communicating complex information clearly and effectively.

Lesson Titles*

1. Informational Reports: "Fact Finders: Crafting Clear and Concise Reports"
2. Space Debris
3. Bomb Cyclones
4. Vertical Farming
5. From Sports Shoes to Fashion Statements

* Draft Titles

Writing Practice

Students practice crafting clear and concise informational reports. This activity enhances crucial skills such as research, critical thinking, and effective communication of complex ideas.

Student Prompt:

Create an informational report on a topic that fascinates you. Choose a subject that you're curious about or one that you'd like to learn more about. Research your chosen topic using reliable sources. Then, write a clear and concise report that explains the key facts, importance, and any recent developments related to your subject.

The Scoop: Writing Engaging News Articles

The unit explores journalistic writing, teaching students how to craft news stories that grab attention and keep readers engaged. The text exemplars cover diverse topics, from a young innovator and archaeological discoveries to cutting-edge technology and robot-created art.

Lesson Titles*

1. The Art of Writing News That Matters
2. Heman Bekele
3. Saber-Toothed Kitten Mummy
4. Wooden Satellite
5. Robot-Created Artwork

* Draft Titles

Writing Practice

This writing exercise encourages students to write engaging news articles by focusing on a significant event at school or home. Students will practice using the 5 Ws and 1 H, crafting catchy headlines, writing strong leads, incorporating quotes, and using descriptive language to create compelling news stories.

Student Prompt:

Something BIG has happened at school or at home! Maybe the cafeteria suddenly started serving gourmet meals, a mysterious message appeared on the school whiteboard, your pet hamster learned to do backflips, or your little sibling built a working robot out of LEGOs. As a reporter, you'll write a news article about this exciting event, grabbing the readers' attention and giving them all the important information. Remember the 5 Ws and 1 H: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How.

Bring Lives to Life: Writing Biographies

In the "Bring Lives to Life: Writing Biographies" unit, students learn the art of crafting biographies that not only tell the story of a person's life but also inspire and motivate readers. They discover the secrets to making biographies captivating by focusing on how the lives they describe can transform others.

Lesson Titles*

1. Bringing Lives to Life: Writing Biographies Overview
2. Steve Jobs
3. Yayoi Kusama
4. George Crum
5. Henrietta Lacks

* Draft Titles

Writing Practice

This exercise has students practice engaging storytelling and thoughtful reflection. By writing a biography that highlights how someone's life can inspire and motivate others, students develop their ability to capture the essence of a person's impact. They also enhance their skills in presenting key events and achievements in a way that resonates deeply with readers.

Student Prompt:

Pick someone whose life story you find inspiring. This could be a famous person or someone you know. Write a short biography that tells important events and achievements in their life. Explain how their life can inspire others. Focus on showing their impact and try to leave your readers feeling inspired and with a new perspective. Use simple and engaging language to make your biography interesting and meaningful.

The Editorial Board: Writing Persuasive Opinions

Through a series of lessons, students will learn to construct well-reasoned arguments, use evidence to support their claims, and articulate their opinions on diverse topics. By the end of the unit, students will be equipped with the tools to write effective op-eds and engage in thoughtful, persuasive discourse.

Lesson Titles*

1. Overview: Op-Eds
2. Rolling to School: The Case for More Bike Paths
3. MVP or Overpaid? The Big Question About Pro Athlete Salaries
4. Schools Should Offer Skateboarding as an After-School Activity
5. The Best Superpower: Healing Ability

* Draft Titles

Writing Practice

In this assignment, students will learn to write a persuasive op-ed for their local newspaper on a community issue. This task will help them develop their ability to clearly articulate their opinions, support their arguments with evidence, and craft compelling closing statements.

Student Prompt:

Write an op-ed for your local newspaper about an issue or topic that affects your community. Choose something you are passionate about, such as improving local parks, addressing traffic congestion, or supporting a new community center. Clearly state your opinion, provide evidence or examples to support your argument, and conclude with a strong closing statement. This exercise will help you practice writing persuasive and impactful arguments that can make a difference in your community.

Convince Me! Writing Persuasive Essays

The "Convince Me! Writing Persuasive Essays" unit is designed to help students master the art of persuasive essay writing. Unlike the op-ed focused unit, this one emphasizes the structure and depth required for longer, more detailed essays. Students will learn to craft strong thesis statements, develop coherent arguments, and use evidence effectively to support their claims.

Lesson Titles*

1. Overview: Persuasive Essays
2. The New ABCs: Why Coding Should Join Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic
3. Notes of Success: How Learning an Instrument Can Improve Your Grades
4. From Couch Potato to Social Butterfly: Why Weekly Episodes are Better for Making Friends
5. Page-Turners to Blockbusters: Why Starting with the Book Makes Movies More Fun

* Draft Titles

Writing Practice

This exercise will help students practice structuring their essays, developing logical arguments, and persuading their readers to see things from their perspective.

Student Prompt:

Convince me! Choose a topic you feel strongly about and write a persuasive essay. Your essay should have a clear thesis statement, well-organized paragraphs, and strong evidence to support your arguments. Consider topics such as the importance of recycling, the benefits of school uniforms, or the need for more extracurricular activities. Make sure to address counterarguments and refute them effectively.

Storytelling Adventures: Crafting Short Stories

The "Storytelling Adventures: Crafting Short Stories" unit is designed to inspire students to unleash their creativity and improve their narrative writing skills. By the end of the unit, students will have developed the skills to write engaging and well-crafted short stories, fostering their imagination and enhancing their writing proficiency.

Lesson Titles*

1. Overview: Short Stories
2. The Unforgettable Camping Trip
3. When Birthday Wishes Come True
4. An Unexpected Field Trip Adventure
5. Hanging by a Thread: A T-Shirt's Journey

* Draft Titles

Writing Practice

In this activity, students will embark on a creative writing journey by crafting their own short stories. This exercise is designed to help students develop their narrative writing skills, including character development, plot structure, and descriptive language. By immersing themselves in these imaginative adventures, students will enhance their creativity, improve their writing proficiency, and gain confidence in their storytelling abilities.

Student Prompt:

Imagine you're the main character in an exciting adventure. Write a short story about your experience, using one of the following scenarios: discovering a hidden room in your school, finding a mysterious map that leads to a treasure, participating in a school talent show with an unexpected twist, or rescuing a lost pet in your neighborhood. Be sure to include vivid descriptions, interesting characters, and a captivating plot.

Sharing Your Journey: Writing Personal Narratives

The "Sharing Your Journey: Writing Personal Narratives" unit is designed to help students develop their ability to write reflective and engaging personal narratives. This unit guides students through the process of recalling and organizing their personal experiences, using descriptive language, and crafting narratives that are both authentic and impactful.

Lesson Titles*

1. Overview: Personal Narratives
2. My First Time Away from Home
3. The Day the Power Went Out: A Family's Adventure
4. The Best Day Ever
5. Frost and Antlers: A Morning with the Roosevelt Elk

* Draft Titles

Writing Practice

This exercise is designed to help students develop their narrative writing skills, including reflection, organization, and descriptive language. By sharing their unique journeys, students will enhance their ability to write authentic and impactful personal narratives, fostering both their writing proficiency and self-awareness.

Student Prompt:

Think about a significant experience in your life that has shaped who you are today. Write a personal narrative about this experience, focusing on the details that made it memorable and the impact it had on you. Consider events such as a family trip, a school project, a sports achievement, or a time you overcame a challenge. Use vivid descriptions and emotions to bring your story to life.

Research Writing: Historical Detectives

The "Research Writing: Historical Detectives" unit is designed to help students develop their research and analytical skills through the exploration of historical topics. This unit guides students in identifying credible sources, organizing their research, and presenting their findings in a coherent and informative manner.

Lesson Titles*

1. Time Travelers: Unearthing the Past Through Research
2. Counting the Hours: How Mesopotamians Divided the Day
3. Beyond the Moon: How Apollo Changed Space Exploration
4. Astoria's Melting Pot: The Story of Its Diverse Settlers
5. How a Chinese Invention Changed the World: The Story of Paper

* Draft Titles

Writing Practice

In this writing exercise, students will take on the role of historical detectives, exploring the rich history of their own community. This activity is designed to help students develop their research and writing skills while fostering a deeper connection to their local history.

Student Prompt:

Imagine you are a historical detective tasked with uncovering a story from your local history. Choose a topic that interests you, such as a significant event, a notable figure, or a landmark in your community. Conduct research using credible sources and write a short research paper that presents your findings.

Exploring History Through Primary Sources: Building Research Skills

This unit introduces students to the world of primary source documents and explores their critical role in research and writing.

Primary Source Lesson Titles

1. Introduction to Primary Sources
2. The Lee Resolution
3. The Virginia Plan
4. The Louisiana Purchase
5. The Alien and Sedition Acts
6. The Emancipation Proclamation
7. The Keating-Owen Child Labor Act
8. The National Interstate Defense Highways Act
9. The United Nations Charter
10. Rep. John Lewis's "Let Freedom Ring" Ceremony Remarks
11. Joint Address to Congress Leading to War With Japan

Writing Practice

This activity invites students to engage with history as investigators, using primary sources to deepen their understanding of key historical events and perspectives. By analyzing original documents students will practice close reading, historical thinking, and research skills. They will explore the context in which these documents were created and consider their lasting significance.

Student Prompt:

In this activity, you'll be a history detective, exploring an important moment in history through a primary source. Choose a document from this unit, read it carefully, and do research to learn more about its time period. Use reliable sources like your textbook, library books, or trusted websites ending in .edu, .org, or .gov. Then, write a short essay explaining what the document shows about its time, why it matters, and how it helps us understand history. Use evidence from both the document and your research.

The Book Critic: Sharing Your Opinions

The "The Book Critic: Sharing Your Opinions" unit is designed to help students develop their ability to analyze and critique literature. This unit guides students through the process of writing book reviews, focusing on key elements such as plot, character development, themes, and writing style.

Lesson Titles*

1. The Book Critic: Overview
2. The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster
3. My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George
4. Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell
5. Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery
6. The Invention of Hugo Cabret
7. From the Desk of Zoe Washington by Janae Marks

* Draft Titles

Writing Practice

In this writing exercise, students will choose a book they have recently read and write a review of it. This activity is designed to help students develop their analytical and writing skills by discussing key elements of the book, such as plot, characters, themes, and writing style. This exercise aims to foster a deeper appreciation for reading and improve students' proficiency in writing book reviews.

Student Prompt:

Choose a book you have recently read and write a review of it. Discuss the plot, characters, themes, and writing style, and share your personal opinion about the book. Be sure to provide specific examples from the book to support your views.

Poetry in Motion: Analyzing and Reviewing Poems

The "Poetry in Motion: Analyzing and Reviewing Poems" unit is designed to help students develop their analytical and interpretive skills through the study of poetry. This unit guides students in examining various elements of poems, such as imagery, tone, structure, and themes.

Lesson Titles*

1. Reviewing Poetry
2. "Be Glad Your Nose is on Your Face" and "Adventures of Isabel"
3. "The Dog Ate My Homework" by Denise Rodgers and "The Doggy Ate my Homework" by Dave Crawley
4. "Did I Miss Anything?" and "Mother Doesn't Want a Dog"
5. "Where the Sidewalk Ends" and "The Giving Tree"
6. "The Jabberwocky" and "The Owl and the Pussycat"
7. "Nothing Gold Can Stay" and "The Road Not Taken"

* Draft Titles

Writing Practice

In this writing exercise, students will choose a poem they have recently read and write a review of it. This activity is designed to help students develop their analytical and writing skills by discussing key elements of the poem, such as imagery, tone, structure, and themes. This exercise aims to foster a deeper appreciation for poetry and improve students' proficiency in writing poem reviews.

Student Prompt:

Choose a poem you have recently read and write a review of it. Discuss the imagery, tone, structure, and themes, and share your personal interpretation and opinion about the poem. Be sure to provide specific examples from the poem to support your views.