

Lesson Plan: Do What Writing Prompt Analysis Strategy

Lesson Objectives

- Students will learn to systematically analyze writing prompts
- Students will develop skills in breaking down complex instructions
- Students will improve their ability to focus on prompt requirements

Common Core Standards

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.5: With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.10: Write routinely over extended time frames and shorter time frames for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Materials Needed

- Writing prompt examples
- Worksheet with Do What Analysis template
- Colored highlighters or markers
- Writing notebooks

Lesson Sequence (50 Minutes)

Introduction (10 minutes)

- Explain the Do What Writing Prompt Analysis strategy
- Demonstrate the strategy using a sample writing prompt
- Break down the strategy's five key steps:
 1. Read the entire prompt carefully
 2. Identify "Do" words (action verbs)
 3. Identify the "What" (specific topic)

4. Note additional details
5. Seek clarification if needed

Guided Practice (20 minutes)

Activity: Prompt Dissection Challenge

- Provide 3-4 different writing prompts to students
- Have students work in pairs to:
 - Highlight "Do" words in one color
 - Underline "What" in another color
 - Create a structured analysis sheet for each prompt
- Example prompts could include:
 1. "Describe a time when you overcame a significant challenge in your life."
 2. "Compare and contrast two historical figures from different time periods."
 3. "Explain how a scientific invention has changed daily life."

Independent Practice (15 minutes)

- Students select one prompt and complete a full Do What analysis
- Create a detailed plan for how they would approach writing the response
- Write out specific steps they will take in their writing process

Closing (5 minutes)

- Share out 2-3 student analyses
- Discuss how the strategy helps improve writing focus
- Reflect on the importance of understanding prompt requirements

Assessment

- Completion of Do What analysis worksheet
- Quality of prompt breakdown
- Ability to identify key prompt elements

Homework

- Find a writing prompt from another class or online
- Complete a full Do What analysis
- Prepare a draft outline based on the analysis

Differentiation Strategies

- Provide additional support for struggling students with pre-filled analysis templates (such as a T-chart)
- Challenge advanced students to analyze more complex, multi-part prompts
- Offer digital or print resources for additional practice

Key Takeaways

- Careful prompt analysis prevents off-topic writing
- Breaking down instructions is a critical pre-writing skill
- Structured approach leads to more focused and effective writing

Potential Challenges to Discuss

- What makes a writing prompt difficult to understand?
- How can you ask for clarification professionally?
- Why is it important to follow prompt instructions exactly?