

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?

Mini-Lesson on Action and Command Verbs

LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

Students will be able to identify and use action verbs, specifically command verbs such as "explain," "clarify," "compare," "contrast," and "identify" in their writing.

ASSESSMENTS:

Students will complete a short quiz where they must identify and use command verbs in context.

KEY POINTS:

- Action verbs describe what a subject does and are essential in conveying clear meaning in writing.
- Command verbs are specific action verbs that instruct readers on what to do, such as "explain," "clarify," "compare," "contrast," and "identify."
- Understanding command verbs helps students follow directions and respond correctly to prompts in assignments and assessments.

OPENING:

- Begin with a brief discussion on what verbs are and their importance in writing.
- Ask students: "What do you think a command verb is? Can you give an example?" This will encourage participation and activate prior knowledge.
- Share a fun fact about how command verbs change the tone and clarity of instructions.

INTRODUCTION TO NEW MATERIAL:

- Define action verbs and command verbs with clear examples.
- Show students how to identify command verbs in sentences by highlighting them in different colors.
- Discuss the importance of command verbs in various contexts, such as tests and assignments.
- Common misconception: Students may confuse command verbs with descriptive verbs; clarify the difference with examples.

GUIDED PRACTICE:

- Provide sentences where students will identify and underline command verbs.
- Work through examples together, starting with simple sentences and gradually increasing complexity.
- Ask questions such as, "Which verb tells us what to do here?" to guide students in recognizing command verbs.
- Monitor student responses and provide immediate feedback to ensure understanding.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE:

- Assign a worksheet where students must read a short passage and underline all command verbs they can find.
- Then, students will write their own sentences using at least three different command verbs.
- Set clear expectations for quiet work and raise hands for help if needed.

CLOSING:

- Conduct a quick review where students share one command verb they learned today and how they might use it.
- Summarize the lesson by highlighting the importance of command verbs in effective communication.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY:

- For students who finish early, provide a challenge to write a short paragraph using at least five command verbs correctly.

HOMEWORK:

- Assign students to write a short instructional paragraph (5-7 sentences) on a topic of their choice, ensuring they use at least four command verbs.

STANDARDS ALIGNED:

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.7.1: Demonstrate an understanding of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

Here are some examples of command verbs you can give to students (or create a wall anchor chart):

- **Analyze:** Examine in detail to understand structure and meaning.
- **Clarify:** Make a statement or situation less confused or more comprehensible.
- **Compare:** Identify similarities and differences between two or more items.
- **Contrast:** Highlight the differences between two or more items.
- **Define:** Provide the meaning of a term or concept.
- **Describe:** Give a detailed account or picture of something.
- **Discuss:** Talk about a topic in detail, considering different viewpoints.
- **Evaluate:** Judge or assess the value or importance of something.
- **Explain:** Make something clear by describing it in more detail.

- **Identify:** Recognize and name someone or something.
 - **Justify:** Provide reasons or evidence to support an argument or conclusion.
 - **Summarize:** Give a brief statement of the main points.
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Some activities to practice these command verbs:

Here are some activities to help students practice command verbs:

1. Command Verb Charades

- **Objective:** Students will act out command verbs without speaking while the rest of the class guesses the verb.
- **Instructions:**
 - Create a list of command verbs.
 - Divide students into small groups.
 - Each group takes turns acting out a command verb for others to guess.

2. Verb Sorting Activity

- **Objective:** Students will categorize verbs into action verbs and command verbs.
- **Instructions:**
 - Provide students with a mixed list of verbs.
 - Students sort them into two columns: "Action Verbs" and "Command Verbs."
 - Discuss their choices as a class.

3. Sentence Creation Challenge

- **Objective:** Students will use command verbs in sentences.
- **Instructions:**
 - Give each student a command verb.
 - Students write a sentence using that verb in context.
 - Share sentences with the class for feedback.

4. Group Discussion Prompts

- **Objective:** Students will practice using command verbs in discussion.
- **Instructions:**
 - Provide discussion prompts that require students to use command verbs (e.g., "Compare two characters in a story").
 - Students discuss in pairs or small groups, ensuring they use the command verbs in their responses.

5. Command Verb Posters

- **Objective:** Students will create visual representations of command verbs.
- **Instructions:**
 - Assign each student or group a command verb.
 - They design a poster that includes the definition, an example sentence, and an illustration.
 - Display posters in the classroom.

6. Quiz Game

- **Objective:** Reinforce understanding of command verbs through a competitive game.
- **Instructions:**
 - Create a quiz with multiple-choice questions about the meanings of command verbs.
 - Use a game format, such as Kahoot or Quizizz, to engage students.

7. Peer Review Activity

- **Objective:** Students will give feedback using command verbs.
- **Instructions:**
 - Students exchange written paragraphs with a partner.
 - They provide feedback using command verbs like "clarify," "explain," and "identify" to guide their suggestions.