



Lesson Planning: **Application**

Subject:

Grade Range:

Intro to Composition: The Essay Vol. 1

5th – 7th

Essay as Structure: Become and Architect!

Welcome to Blackbird & Company’s English Language Arts program!

Intro to Composition: The Essay - Volume 1 is one of the application elements of our ELA program.

As your students work through this unit, they will explore both essay form and writing technique. Over the course of 10 weeks, students will practice things such as, constrained writing, composing expanded paragraphs, and using only active verbs while exploring the form and its purpose. This Writing Discovery Guide will introduce your students to the structure, purpose, and art of the essay, setting their feet on the pathway to becoming architects with words who can shelter their big ideas within a structure that communicates clearly and creatively.

This planning Schedule is provided to help YOU as you plan and prepare to mentor your student on this journey of growth and discovery.

Are you ready? Let’s go!

The following guidelines assume you are planning for the start of a typical school year beginning the last week of August and ending the first week of June. This equals about 40 calendar weeks, and allows for 175-180 days of instruction when accounting for breaks and holidays. If you are starting mid-year, or are following a different schedule, simply adjust the dates as needed.

The Essay Volume 1 - Planning

June – August (Overall subject preparation)

- ➔ Familiarize yourself with the material by reading For The Teacher and For The Student introductory pages 3-16 in the Student Workbook. Then look through student pages 17-54 to familiarize yourself with the nature of the lessons.
- ➔ Now look over the the Table of Contents and the Note for Teachers included in the companion text, Thinking In Threes. The activities in this workbook will be utilized throughout this Essay Unit to explore writing strategies and techniques that will assist your students as they move toward crafting expanded paragraphs.

The Essay Volume 1 - Mapping

July – August (Scheduling and preparation for individual literature titles)

Things to consider as you plan:

- ➔ This Essay Unit Workbook is best employed two days per week but can be accomplished in larger, once-per-week blocks. Your student will need approximately 2-4 hours per session, depending on the developmental stage of your budding writer and how many sessions you choose per week.
- ➔ This unit requires 10 weeks to complete and is used in conjunction with the Thinking In Threes companion workbook.
- ➔ Each two week lesson can stand on its own and is not dependent on work previously completed. Weekly work does not need to be assigned on consecutive days.
- ➔ Guide corrections need to be done weekly to insure that your student receives all input, corrections, and encouragement needed to be successful.
- ➔ Map out your intended Essay Unit schedule on your academic calendar in pencil, leaving room for possible adjustments along the way. Pay attention to other assignments and work load to avoid overwhelming your student.



SAMPLE MAPPING GUIDE

Now you have decisions to make about holidays, activities, and interruptions in scheduling.
Plan carefully to avoid overload or a lapse in student recall due to long down periods with holidays.

A typical schedule will work around the following breaks: 1 week in November for Fall Break,
 3 weeks in December/January for Winter Break, 1 week in April for Spring Break.

We recommend that you add in this applicational tool after you have established a solid pattern and routine with the longer year pack elements, around the 6th week of school. This material can be easily staggered with other application elements to keep it interesting and inviting.

We will map out a twice-per-week offering, but you can roll all elements into once-per-week assignments if desired.

Duration: 10 weeks

Week 1: Lesson 1 (week 6 of school)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40					
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10																														

DAY	ASSIGNMENT	NOTES/ MARK COMPLETE
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson 1: Getting Started pages 17-19 • <i>Thinking In Threes</i> pages 11-14: “The Power of Three” 	
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson 1: Getting Started pages 20-21 • <i>Thinking In Threes</i> pages 17-20: “Brainstorming” 	

Week 2: Lesson 1 (week 7 of school)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40						
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10																															

DAY	ASSIGNMENT	NOTES/ MARK COMPLETE
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson 1: Getting Started pages 22-23, Sight Paragraph Rough Draft 	
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson 1: Getting Started pages 24-25, Sight Paragraph Edit and Final 	

Week 3: Lesson 2 (week 8 of school)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40							
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																

DAY	ASSIGNMENT	NOTES/ MARK COMPLETE
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson 2: The Introduction, part 1 pages 26-27 • <i>Thinking In Threes</i> pages 57-65: “Writing Introductions” 	
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson 2: The Introduction, part 1 page 28 • <i>Thinking In Threes</i> pages 69-76: “Writing Fluent Sentences” 	

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Week 4: Lesson 2 (week 9 of school)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40			
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10																												

DAY	ASSIGNMENT	NOTES/ MARK COMPLETE
Day 1	• Lesson 2: The Introduction, part 1 pages 29-30, Touch Paragraph Rough	
Day 2	• Lesson 2: The Introduction, part 1 pages 31-32, Touch Paragraph Edit and Final	

Mapping will continue in this pattern for the next 6 weeks.
Select the days of the week that best fit your schedule.