

Overview for Grade 8 Unit 1, *Investigative Journalism*

Session/Miniesson		Conferring and Small-Group Work	Mid-Workshop Teaching	Share
BEND I: Reporting the Real Story: Newscasts				
1	Journalists Develop Their Powers of Observation to Capture Events	Anticipating Predictable First-Day Challenges for Your Range of Writers	Learning to Get to the Point	A New Kind of Writing: Lean, Efficient, Incisive
2	Turning Moments of Drama into Cogent Newscasts	Role-Playing the Active Journalist	Capturing Quotes to Enliven and Provide Perspective	Seeing and Telling the World as a Journalist
3	Researching and Reporting Experience	Help Writers Learn to Use Descriptive Language the Way Journalists Do	Writers Live as Protagonists, but Journalists Write as the Narrator: Shifting from First to Third Person	Stringing Scenes Together to Suggest Meaning
4	Making Short Nonfiction Writing Pack a Punch	Lifting the Level of Literary Language and Attending to Tone	Experimenting with New Strategies, Working Hard	Writing Partners Use Academic Language to Give Specific, High-Level Feedback
5	Setting Ambitious Goals and Publishing	Making News Stories Matter to the Community: Angling for Social Significance	Working to Meet Deadlines	Journalists Live for Feedback
BEND II: Investigative Journalism: Writing to Inform and Illuminate				
6	Journalists Delve Deeply to Reveal Underlying Issues	Generating and Telling Anecdotes from a Journalistic Stance	Transforming Lived Experiences into Narrative Nonfiction: Sustaining a Journalist's Pronouns and Tone	Going Public with Investigations to Share Research Material
7	Harnessing Narrative Craft to Reveal Central Ideas and Stir Empathy	Developing Partnerships and Study Groups, and Setting Ambitious Goals	Using Tools to Set Ambitious Writing Goals	Committing to a Story Idea
8	Harnessing Narrative and Information Writing Techniques to Engage the Reader	Daring the Moves of Master Journalists: Bold Writers Alternate between Time Frames and Pace Details Strategically	Varying Sentence Structure to Affect Pacing and Build Tension	Mentoring Oneself to a Published Author
9	Elaborating to Deepen Readers' Connections	Elaborating Perspectives while Maintaining a Truth-Telling Approach	Developing the Points of View of Diverse Characters	Assessing Work and Setting Goals for Future Work
10	Writing Partners Have Each Other's Backs	Bolstering Partnerships and Preparing to Publish	Keeping an Eye on Deadlines and Helping Each Other with Publishing Tasks	Sharing Feedback with Other Writers
11	Attending to Voice and Verb Tense when Editing for Publication			
BEND III: Investigating the Bigger Story				
12	Mentoring Oneself to a Pro to Envision the Arc of Investigative Reporting	Finding and Documenting Stories that Will Anchor Investigative Pieces	Journalists Use Statistics to Add Authority to Their Assertions	Setting and Completing Tasks and Turning Research into Writing
13	Expanding a Repertoire of Research Tools			
14	Structuring Investigative Pieces and Leading the Reader with Key Transitions	Organizing an Investigation and Fitting All the Parts Together into an Investigative Piece	Being Flexible with Investigative Structure	Setting Tasks for Significant Work
15	Crafting Endings that Call Readers to Action	Using Editing Knowledge and Our Combined Expertise to Face a Deadline with Confidence	Helping Readers Do More	Getting Tips from Other Writers: A Symphony Share
16	Publication and Celebration			