

Overview for Grade 8 Unit 3, *Position Papers*

Session/Minilesson		Conferring and Small-Group Work	Mid-Workshop Teaching	Share
BEND I: Writing a Position Paper: Games Based on Fictional Violence—Diverting or Harmful?				
1	Debating Positions to Develop a Complex Argument	Raising the Level of Argument and the Level of Independence and Self-Monitoring		Writers Recall What They Already Know and Turn to Exemplars to Plan Their Writing
2	Flash-Drafting Arguments While Working on Specific Writing Goals	Supporting Students to Connect Claims, Reasons, and Evidence	Writers Commit to Qualities of Writing Such as Those on the Checklist	Mentoring Oneself to Exemplars
3	Angling Evidence to Support Specific Points	Framing, Adapting, and Evaluating References	Writers Clarify Deadlines to Manage Research and Revision	Writing More Effective Introductions
4	Using Connotative Language to Paint a Tone	Analyzing Authors' Craft as Well as Authors' Evidence	Writers Consider Connotations of Words that Convey Tone	Analyzing and Commenting on a Source's Bias or Tone
5	Writing Powerful Conclusions	Targeted Research to Support Conclusion Writing and Big-Picture Essentials	Writers Synthesize Their Writing to Consolidate a Draft	Sharing Tips for Digital Publishing
6	Getting Ready to Publish: Polishing Presentations and Attending to Conventions			
7	Unleashing the Inner Dramatist to Give Speeches More Impact	Comparing and Contrasting Public Speaking Craft	Speech Writers Attend to Clarity and Conventions after Rehearsal	The Role of Direct Address in Argument
8	A Celebration of Speeches			
BEND II: Writing a Position Paper on a Complicated Issue: Should Child Soldiers Be Given Amnesty?				
9	Grappling with Issues of Intensity and Developing Initial Understanding	Using Writer's Notebooks as a Thinking Tool	Rethinking Responses from an Argumentation Stance	Writers Consider More Than One Side of an Issue
10	Developing Preliminary Positions and Revising Thinking			
11	Debating to Draft More Balanced and Principled Arguments	Transitions Help You Move Gracefully through Parts of a Complex Argument	Capturing Language and Logic: From Debating to Drafting	Qualifying the Conditions under which an Argument Holds True
12	Strengthening, Framing, and Pacing Evidence	Using Transitions to Guide the Reader Into and Out of Parts of Arguments	Tips for Framing Evidence	Nonfiction Writers Attend to Pacing and Other Literary Devices
13	Attending to Alternative Arguments and Points of View	Expanding Introductions to Include Context or Background Information	Writers Assess Fairness in Addressing Counterarguments	Writers Take Inspiration from Their Community—or, Writers Steal!
14	Using the Organizational Structure of Your Piece to Help Build Your Argument	Studying Mentor Texts to Engage in Independent Revision	Breaking with Tradition: Paragraphing for a Purpose	Sharing Plans and Purposes with Peer Writers
15	Tailoring Position Papers as Letters: Attending to Audience and Presentation			
16	A Social Activist Celebration			