

Name _____

Date _____

STAAR Writing Countdown

The goal of this set of lessons is to provide focus and direction for reviewing genres, strategies, and skills taught to date. For many students, the knowledge and experience they have gained in regular instruction will be easily transported to the STAAR. However, research suggests that less capable students need more direct instruction and explicit guided practice to apply what they know and have learned in new contexts.

STAAR COUNTDOWN

Lesson	Skills and Strategies	Activity	Time-Frame
1	Understanding the Writing Test	Teachers will guide students through a mini assessment (provided) and offer tips for using time effectively.	2 Class Session
2	What Make a Good Story	Teachers clarify expectations for the story by guiding students through an analysis of Student Writing Samples. Demonstrate how to improve the quality of a paper that does not meet the minimum standard.	2 Class Session
3	Writing Story	Demonstrate a strategy for interpreting writing prompts, planning, and writing a 1-page story in a timed setting.	2 Class Session
4	Revising	Review the elements of grammar and style for revision.	2 Class Session
5	What Makes an Expository Composition	Teachers clarify expectations for the story by guiding students through an analysis of Student Writing Samples. Demonstrate how to improve the quality of a paper that does not meet the minimum standard.	2 Class Session
6	Writing to Explain	Demonstrate a strategy for interpreting writing prompts, planning, and writing a 1-page expository essay in a timed setting.	2 Class Session
7	Editing	Review the elements of grammar and style for revision.	2 Class Session
8	Test-Taking Strategies	Review the test format, expectations, and develop a pacing plan for taking the test.	1 Class Session