Structured Steps to Writing

An Explicit, Systematic Approach to Writing and Composition

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE · *12 Units · Three Tiers · 15-Minute Lessons*

THE FOUR SSW TOOLS *used across the whole program*

TOOL	PURPOSE	INTRODUCED
SPARK + SORT	Generating ideas, then focusing them, before any writing begins	Unit 4 L9 (sentence level) Unit 5 L1 (paragraph level)
STEMS	Building a paragraph sentence by sentence, every sentence with a job (sentence and paragraph level only)	Unit 5
CAMPS	Revising and editing after writing	Unit 1 L9 preview Unit 6 in full
Introduction & Conclusion Checklists	Verifying the two paragraph types that need explicit checking	Unit 9

PLANNING GUIDES *piece-level tools for multi-paragraph writing*

TOOL	PURPOSE	INTRODUCED
Essay Planning Guide	Piece-level planning tool for multi-paragraph writing, in three differentiated versions	Units 9 to 11
Story Arc Planning Guide	Piece-level planning tool for narrative writing, built on six story beats	Unit 12

FOUNDATIONS · *Sentence Mastery · Units 1 to 4*

Unit 1: Building Basic Sentences

L1	Capitals and ending punctuation: the four steps
L2	Nouns: person, place, thing, animal, idea
L3	Common vs. proper nouns; capitalizing proper nouns
L4	Verbs: physical, speaking, thinking, and feeling action verbs
L5	Barebone sentences: WHO + DOES WHAT = complete sentence; fragments
L6	Subject and predicate: who/doing what, with two detective questions
L7	Subject and predicate: formal terms; simple and complete
L8	Being verbs: am, is, are, was, were; action vs. being verbs
L9	Simple revising and editing: CAMPS preview at the sentence level

© 2026 Structured Steps to Writing | Spark Literacy Innovations Inc. | slinnovations.com | All Rights Reserved
Free Resource · Share freely, please do not resell

Unit 2: Expanding Sentences with Describing Words

L1	Introduction to sentence expansion: who, what, where, when, why, how
L2	Adjectives: what kind, how many, which one
L3	Adding adjectives using sensory language (PAINT A PICTURE)
L4	Adverbs: how, when, where, to what extent
L5	Placing and moving adverbs in sentences
L6	Using multiple describing words (2+ adjectives and adverbs)
L7	Articles: a, an, the
L8	Review and application: expanding sentences with describing words

Unit 3: Sentence Variety and Types

L1	Four sentence types: declarative, interrogative, exclamatory, imperative
L2	Writing different sentence types; matching punctuation to type
L3	Conjunctions: FANBOYS (For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So)
L4	Compound sentences: two independent clauses joined with comma + conjunction
L5	Sentence combining: joining choppy sentences, avoiding repetition
L6	Varying sentence beginnings: Subject, Adverb, Where/When Phrase, Adjective/Describing Phrase, Transitional Word
L7	Varying sentence lengths: mixing short and long for rhythm and flow
L8	Application and review: writing with sentence variety

Unit 4: Advanced Sentence Structure

L1	Independent clauses: stand alone, complete thought
L2	Dependent clauses: subordinating conjunctions, cannot stand alone
L3	Complex sentences: independent + dependent clause; comma rules
L4	Appositives: noun phrase renames another noun; comma placement
L5	Advanced sentence combining: compound and complex sentences
L6 to L8	Practice and application: mentor sentences, sentence variety across all types
L9	SPARK + SORT for sentences: generating ideas; writing 2 to 3 connected sentences

© 2026 Structured Steps to Writing | Spark Literacy Innovations Inc. | slinnovations.com | All Rights Reserved
Free Resource · Share freely, please do not resell

Unit 5: What Is a Paragraph?

L1	Before You Write: SPARK + SORT for Paragraphs. Generate ideas, then focus them
L2	What Is a Paragraph? One topic, and every sentence has a job
L3	Writing Your Topic: The S Sentence (Part 1). Identify how a topic sentence announces the main idea
L4	Writing Your Topic: The S Sentence (Part 2). Write clear, specific topic sentences
L5	Supporting Your Topic: The T Sentence. Target the most important supporting idea
L6	Supporting Your Topic: The E Sentence. Explain with an example or evidence
L7	Supporting Your Topic: The M Sentence. Make it matter: answer the reader's so what
L8	Connecting Your Ideas: Transition Words. Help STEMS sentences flow together
L9	Concluding Sentences (Part 1). Identify an ending that restates the idea in fresh words
L10	Concluding Sentences (Part 2). Write original concluding sentences
L11	Writing Complete Paragraphs. Plan and write a full paragraph with SPARK + SORT and STEMS

Unit 6: Revising and Editing with CAMPS

L1	Revising vs. Editing. Two different jobs, and which one comes first
L2	C = Capitals. Write a STEMS paragraph, then check it for capitals
L3	A = Agreement. Write a paragraph, then check subject-verb and pronoun agreement
L4	M = Missing Words. Write a paragraph, then read word by word for what is missing
L5	P = Punctuation. Write a paragraph, then check end marks, apostrophes, and quotation marks
L6	S = Spelling. Write a paragraph, then check homophones and uncertain spellings
L7	Plan and Draft. Choose a topic, plan with SPARK + SORT, draft a STEMS paragraph
L8	Edit and Reflect. Apply the full CAMPS checklist in sequence to your own draft

© 2026 Structured Steps to Writing | Spark Literacy Innovations Inc. | slinnovations.com | All Rights Reserved
Free Resource · Share freely, please do not resell

Unit 7: Grammar Tools in Paragraphs

L1	Subject Pronouns: helping paragraphs flow naturally
L2	Object Pronouns: choosing the right pronoun for the job
L3	NOT Contractions: giving your writing a natural voice
L4	Other Contractions: making your writing sound like you
L5	Possessive Nouns: showing ownership with precision
L6	Prepositions: anchoring your writing in time and place
L7	Synonyms and Antonyms: choosing the right word every time
L8	Homophones: the errors your ear cannot catch
L9	Review and Application: putting the whole toolkit to work

Unit 8: Punctuation in Paragraphs

L1	Commas (Part 1): keeping your lists and openings clear
L2	Commas (Part 2): joining sentences and adding extra detail
L3	Quotation Marks (Part 1): showing the reader who is speaking
L4	Quotation Marks (Part 2): moving the speaker tag
L5	Semicolons: joining two closely related sentences
L6	Colons: introducing a list after a complete sentence
L7	Practice and Application (Part 1): the CAMPS P step on prepared paragraphs
L8	Practice and Application (Part 2): editing your own writing

Unit 9: Organizing Ideas and Planning to Write · bridge unit

L1	What is an essay? Orientation using a complete genre-neutral model. No writing
L2	Introducing the Essay Planning Guide: SPARK + SORT straight into the Planning Guide
L3	The Introduction: Introduction Checklist and Hook Menu
L4	The Conclusion: Conclusion Checklist; the mirror concept
L5	Connecting paragraphs: explicit transition vocabulary
L6	Working from a source: jot notes; signal phrases
L7	Planning a complete piece independently: capstone of the planning sequence
L8	Drafting the introduction from the Lesson 7 plan
L9	Drafting the conclusion; student leaves holding a drafted introduction and conclusion

© 2026 Structured Steps to Writing | Spark Literacy Innovations Inc. | slinnovations.com | All Rights Reserved
Free Resource · Share freely, please do not resell

Unit 10: Opinion Writing

L1 to L2	What is opinion writing: opinion vs. fact; revisit STEMS for body paragraphs; confirm the Introduction and Conclusion Checklists
L3 to L4	Opinion structure: introduction with an opinion statement, STEMS body paragraphs, conclusion with a call to action
L5 to L6	Supporting opinions with evidence and examples; transitions between reasons
L7 to L8	Addressing counterarguments: "Some people think... but..."; strengthening position
L9 to L10	Capstone: plan, draft, revise, and edit a complete multi-paragraph opinion piece

Unit 11: Informative Writing

L1	What Is Informative Writing? (Part 1): writing that teaches the reader with facts
L2	What Is Informative Writing? (Part 2): paragraph jobs, the Essay Planning Guide, and the checklists; choose a topic
L3	Informative Writing Structure (Part 1): jot notes from a source card
L4	Informative Writing Structure (Part 2): sort notes straight into the Essay Planning Guide
L5	Organizing Information (Part 1): by category or by time and sequence
L6	Organizing Information (Part 2): by comparison; choosing the pattern that fits
L7	Citing Your Sources (Part 1): why we cite; plagiarism; MLA in-text citations
L8	Citing Your Sources (Part 2): Works Cited entries for a book and a website
L9	Using Facts and Details (Part 1): choosing facts that fit; draft Body 1
L10	Using Facts and Details (Part 2): explaining facts for the reader; draft Body 2
L11	Capstone (Part 1): draft Body 3 and the introduction
L12	Capstone (Part 2): draft the conclusion; revise, edit with CAMPS, and attach the Works Cited

© 2026 Structured Steps to Writing | Spark Literacy Innovations Inc. | slinnovations.com | All Rights Reserved
Free Resource · Share freely, please do not resell

Unit 12: Narrative Writing

L1	What Is Narrative Writing? Story elements; every story needs a problem
L2	What Makes a Story Move: what a character wants; how one event causes the next
L3	The Story Arc: six beats, each with a job, building to one big moment
L4	Planning Your Story Arc: SPARK + SORT into the Story Arc Planning Guide
L5	Show Don't Tell: Dialogue. Let characters speak; punctuating dialogue
L6	Show Don't Tell: Senses and Actions. Put the reader in the scene
L7	Set it. Show it. Connect it.: narrative paragraph building (Beat 3)
L8	Building to the Climax: making the biggest moment feel big (Beat 4)
L9	Drafting the Beginning: a first line from the Hook Menu; Beats 1 and 2
L10	Drafting the Middle: making every try harder; joining Beats 3 and 4
L11	Writing the Ending: Beats 5 and 6 with the Conclusion Checklist
L12	Revising and Editing: read it aloud, show don't tell, and edit with CAMPS

© 2026 Structured Steps to Writing | Spark Literacy Innovations Inc. | slinnovations.com | All Rights Reserved
Free Resource · Share freely, please do not resell