

Teaching Composition TOP 20 Sites

By Jill Mountain

1. **Lesson Planet: Composition Teacher Resources**

https://www.lessonplanet.com/lesson-plans/composition/all?gclid=Cj0KCQjw3s_4BRDPARIsAJsyoLNRePmgTF64IyRDyTxhMvaewilY39PjKyPfvQFuE7Om1zvwyffFSuMaAjZfEALw_wcB

While there is a registration option, there are also links to dozens of resources that are available for free through other websites like EngageNY; Lessons and resources are provided for elementary to high school writing classes.

2. **Literacy Planet: 12 Lessons for Teaching Writing to Secondary Students**

<https://www.literacyplanet.com/au/news/12-lesson-plans-teaching-writing-secondary-students/>

This resource provides what would best be described as outlines of lessons, rather than fully developed lesson plans. However, it is still very helpful, offering ideas and strategies for introducing twelve different writing projects.

3. **Busy Teacher: How to Teach Your Students to Write an Essay**

<https://busyteacher.org/17162-how-to-teach-your-students-to-write-an-essay.html>

This resource outlines the key components of an essay, including the introduction, thesis, body paragraphs, and conclusion, and how to instruct students in best practices in writing each part. The website also includes information on planning and outlining.

4. **Rockin' Resources: How to Teach Paragraph Writing**

<https://rockinresources.com/2014/11/how-to-teach-paragraph-writing.html>

This is a curated resource with links to many tried and true strategies for strong paragraph writing instruction. It includes images of common teaching organizer such as the paragraph as a sandwich, a link to a YouTube video of the “paragraph song,” as well as more advanced resources for older writers. Teachers can choose from the resources to add to student facing classrooms or to incorporate into lessons.

5. **10 Ways to Teach Argument Writing with the New York Times**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/05/learning/lesson-plans/10-ways-to-teach-argument-writing-with-the-new-york-times.html>

This resource begins with examples of strong editorial writing that teachers can use for close reading assignments; literally some of the best professional writing published for students to analyze and dissect. It goes on to propose topics and offer models for students to pursue their own argumentative writing with a focus on authenticity and accuracy.

6. **Cult of Pedagogy: A Step by Step Plan for Teaching Argumentative Writing**

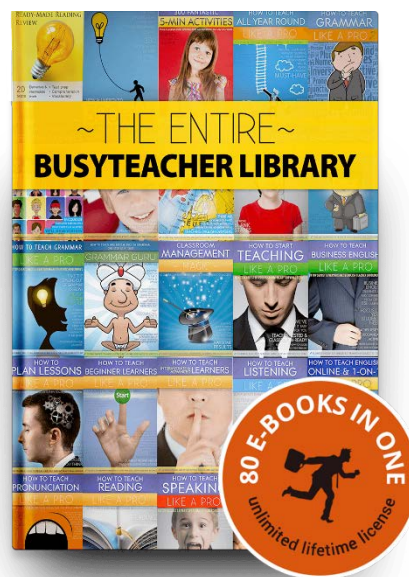
<https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/persuasive-writing/>

This is both a detailed article and a podcast. The author links to her sources so that they can become part of the a teacher’s source material as well. This resource could easily be the backbone of creating an introductory argumentative writing unit.

7. **Edutopia: Strategies for Teaching Argument Writing**

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/strategies-teaching-argument-writing>

This resource stands out because of its focus on scaffolding. It does not assume that every student comes to their paper with a clear understanding of the task and offers multiple approaches intended to reach students and help them better understand argumentative academic writing and go on to tackle it successfully. There are no direct lessons with step by step instructions, but enough examples that certainly lessons can be built from the content.



8. **Common Sense Education: Argument Writing Middle School**

<https://www.common sense.org/education/lesson-plans/argument-writing-middle-school>

This resource is intended for middle school students and can easily be delivered in a developmental high school classroom as well. It is a traditional step-by-step lesson plan. It models how to use online resources for each step of the lesson, and the links to the “hook,” direct instruction, independent practice, and enrichment activities are included. Teachers can use this as it is, or as a model for how to create web-based lesson plans (especially useful in this new age of distance learning).

9. **Just Ask Professional Development: Teaching Argument Writing, An Inquiry Process**

<https://justaskpublications.com/just-ask-resource-center/e-newsletters/msca/teaching-argument-writing-an-inquiry-process/>

This is a Common-Core based resource that assumes the teacher is creating lessons to meet legacy CCSS. However, there are many valuable strategies and links included. For example, there is a link to a collection of annotated writing samples from grades K-12 which can be incorporated as mentor texts or examples of best

practices/common pitfalls. There are also guiding questions, question stems, and suggested topics.

10. **Cengage: Research Tutorial Teacher Guide**

https://assets.cengage.com/gale/tlist/additional/questia_teachers-guide.pdf

For the teacher planning an entire research unit this is an excellent resource as it includes lesson tutorials on topic selection, research, using libraries and databases, evaluating sources, plagiarism, and how to appropriately use research: summary, paraphrase, and quotation.

11. **ReadWriteThink: Scaffolding Methods for Research Paper**

Writing

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/scaffolding-methods-research-paper-1155.html>

It is always helpful to have a resource that acknowledges that not all students come to an assignment with the same background and skills. This is a fully planned lesson for grades 6-8, easily adapted for high school, that focuses on how to scaffold the steps in planning, researching, and writing a traditional research paper.



12. **Language Arts Classroom: Teaching Research Papers with High School Students**

<https://languageartsclassroom.com/2018/11/teaching-research-papers-with-high-school-students.html>

This resource focuses more on the mechanics of writing a formal paper, including format, formal syntax, and using a revision process. There is a link to download printable or shareable revision/editing checklists that would be helpful in the classroom.

13. **Research Papers: A Writing Workshop**

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/activities/teaching-content/research-papers-writing-workshop/>

For younger students or developmental classes, this resource is a series of mini-lessons focusing on different components of the research and writing process. They can be used together as week-long unit, or the components can be used to inspire or fill in a teacher's own lesson. The instruction is explicit and step-by-step, so it would be a good developmental resource.

14. **Easy Research Paper Lesson Plan**

<https://www.elacommoncorelessonplans.com/easy-research-paper-lesson-plan.html>

The product of this multi-day lesson plan is a succinct mini-research project that is easy to grade and touches briefly on the main components of academic research. The writer includes assessment guidance as well as links to resources such as the Purdue OWL website and instructions on how to integrate the resources into the lessons.

15. **Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) : Mechanics**

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/mechanics/index.html

The Purdue OWL website is well known for its extensive resources. This is the homepage of the writing mechanics section, which offers many tutorials, models, and model assignments that can be used to create lessons or as resources for students.



16. **Noodle Tools Express**

<http://my.noodletools.com/web/express.html>

This version of Noodle Tools citation generator for MLA, APA, and CHI is free and does not require users to register or log in. They simply enter information and copy and paste the citation into their paper. It is helpful when asking students to register for a resource isn't possible or as a way for students to check their citations.

17. **MLA Style Center: Formatting a Research Paper**

<https://style.mla.org/formatting-papers/>

The ultimate (free) guide to formatting an MLA paper. This resource links to the most common formatting requirements for margins, text, titles, citations, etc. There is also a FAQ center where users can search for specific questions related to formatting.

18. **Purdue OWL: APA Sample Paper**

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/apa_sample_paper.html

The best one-site resource for formatting using APA. The site also includes a quick citation generator and links to style guidelines.

19. **National Writing Project: 30 Ideas for Teaching Writing**

<https://archive.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource/922>

These are links to 30 successful strategies, each contributed by an experienced Writing Project teacher, and each previously used in a classroom. There is a range of techniques and approaches to writing and every imaginable form.

20. **High-Impact Strategies for Teaching Writing with Evidence at the High School Level**

<https://achievethecore.org/aligned/high-impact-strategies-for-teaching-writing-with-evidence-at-the-high-school-level/>

From a blog related to aligning instruction to CCSS, this is not a specifically standards-focused resource, but does concentrate on rigor in academic writing. There are examples provided for each strategy that can be used as images in teacher presentations and the information is detailed enough to use to create multiple lessons.