

Lesson # 7 Skills Workshop: Writing Scripts

Subject area / course / grade level: Science Grade 7-10

Summary: Students will understand how to write scripts for newscast/special reports. They will use this skill to create their final project. Their individual work and news cast will be their summative assessment.

Lesson objective(s):

To develop an understanding of the three C's of news writing: Clear, Concise, Correct

To understand the structure of a news story

Time Needed: 1 day

Materials:

- Student Journals
- “Scientist Makes Brain Invisible” Example:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kE4H0vn_wTM
- Hand-out: Script Writing Workshop (Draft) 1/student

WASS: (Middle School):

6-8 LS1-C Multicellular organisms have specialized cells that perform different functions. These cells join together to form tissues that give organs their structure and enable organs to perform specialized functions within organ systems.

6-8 SYSA Any system may be thought of as containing subsystems and as being a subsystem of a larger system.

WASS: (High School):

9-12 INQA Scientists generate and evaluate questions to investigate the natural world.

9-12 SYSB Systems thinking can be especially useful in analyzing complex situations. To be useful, a system needs to be specified as clearly as possible.

NGSS(Middle School):

MS-LS1-d Design and conduct an investigation to gather evidence to support explanations that the body is a system of interacting subsystems composed of groups of cells working to form tissues and organs specialized for particular body functions, and that scientific advances in understanding of those systems have led to improvements in nutrition, health, and medicine.

NGSS (High School):

HS-LS1-2 Develop and use a model to illustrate the hierarchical organization of interacting systems that provide specific functions within multicellular organisms.

CCSS: WHST 9-12.2 Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific experiments, or technical processes.

What? News Report Script workshop

How? As Individuals

Why? To create script pre-writes

Differentiation:

Students will be arranged in groups that include a wide spectrum of learning abilities.

Students will receive one on one supports based on the difficulty of the task assigned.

Students will receive additional visual examples.

Roles will have varying degrees of responsibility to be assigned to suit the needs of the learner.

ENGAGEMENT (5 min)

What Makes a Great News Clip

- Play “Scientists Make Brain Invisible” video that reports on a recent scientific discovery.
- Explain students are to evaluate the style and elements of the program to help them write their own scripts.
- Explain the guided questions given are indicators of a good report.



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- Students may find additional indicators not identified by the teacher or questions.

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EXPLORATION (15 min) Breaking it All Down

INSTRUCT

Answer the following questions related to the story in your Journals.

1. How long was the program?
2. Was there an Introduction by an Anchor?
3. Were there headlines?
4. Did it contain music?
5. How many stories did the program contain?
6. How long was each of the reports?
7. What was the language like?
8. Did the segment include images?
9. Did the segment include graphs or other data?
10. Did the segment include any models?
11. Which sound and video clips were used?
12. Was there a closing statement?
13. How can the technology affect the future?
14. Did you find it interesting?

EXPLANATION (10 min) Indicators of a Good Report

- Discuss answers & results as a class.

INSTRUCT

- While the example given contains only a single story reported on by a single reporter, final projects will consist of a single story reported on by each expert, designated by group roles. All students must be present in the final video; however, one student may be the anchor (the person that introduces the story).
- A 3-5 minute video will require the following script lengths:
 - ❖ Length: Anchor: @45 words at beginning
 - ❖ Expert: @180-220 words per expert
 - ❖ Anchor: @ 30 words to close the segment
- Scripts should be Clear, Concise, and Correct!

ELABORATION (20+ min) Group Work

- Have students work on individual portions of the group script.

INSTRUCT

- Each student will write a script of their portion of the report.

EVALUATION (20 min+) Peer Reviews

- Students will submit their pre-writes for peer editing.
- Following revisions, teacher will provide feedback for subsequent revisions.
- Pre-writes must be teacher-approved prior to filming the Final Presentation.

