

## Workshops and Independent Reading

**Introduction** This guide discusses the workshops and Independent Reading in Prentice Hall Literature for the American Experience and British Tradition. It talks about the Writing, Communications, Vocabulary, and Essential Question Workshops, and it also explores suggestions for Independent Reading.

**Workshops** The workshops provide practice with key language arts skills. They are located at the end of each unit as shown in the Student Edition Table of Contents in the Teacher’s Edition.

**Writing Workshops** The writing workshops focus on writing skills and the writing process. Students practice a variety of writing forms, such as narratives, research reports, persuasive essays, and short stories.

These workshops feature the six traits of writing. Each trait appears as a tab in the Writer’s Toolbox and provides focus for different writing activities. The six traits of writing are featured during different phases of the writing process.



Following guidelines from the Understanding by Design model, it might be useful to clarify expected outcomes with students before they begin writing. Use the rubrics for self-assessment to discuss the evaluation criteria with students. The rubrics are located on the last page of each Writing Workshop.

### Rubric for Self-Assessment

Evaluate your reflective essay using the following criteria and rating scale.

Criteria	Rating Scale
<b>Focus:</b> How clearly do you depict the conflict, its resolution, and your insight?	not very 1 2 3 4 5 very
<b>Organization:</b> How clear and logical is the sequence of events?	1 2 3 4 5
<b>Support/Elaboration:</b> How well do you build on your ideas with details and reactions?	1 2 3 4 5
<b>Style:</b> How effectively do you vary sentences and add details to bring characters alive?	1 2 3 4 5
<b>Conventions:</b> How correct is your grammar and mechanics, especially your use of capitalization?	1 2 3 4 5

Students begin the writing process with prewriting activities. Excerpts of professional models provide examples of the genre. In one autobiographical narrative example, students discuss the impact of the author describing his feelings.

You can also explicitly teach and model prewriting and drafting strategies. The following is an example of teaching how to shape writing by ordering events and building intensity.



Students review professional writing models to deepen their understanding of the writing process. In another example, Susan Power explains her challenge with word choice. She annotates an excerpt from Roofwalker to illustrate her thought process.

The author videos on PH Lit Online feature authors discussing their writing process and the rewards of writing.

Finally, examine student writing samples with students. Use the annotations to analyze the use of specific writing elements.

**Prentice Hall EssayScorer**

Prentice Hall EssayScorer powered by WriteToLearn™ enables students to submit essays online and receive instant feedback along with tips for revision. Teachers have access to reports on student submissions from the Teacher Center home page.

**Communications Workshops**

The Communications Workshops focus on oral language skills, such as evaluating entertainment media and presenting an oral interpretation of a literary work.

In the following example, students learn about persuasive speeches and common persuasive techniques. As they prepare to evaluate a speech, they learn what to listen for during the presentation.

**Types of Persuasive Speech**

There are four main types of persuasive speech: propositions of fact, value, problem, and policy. All use language, reasoning, and proof differently in order to achieve specific ends.

Propositions	What They Establish	Examples
Fact	That something is so, or happened	In fact, the defendant lied the scene.
Value	That something is good or bad, better or worse	Jazz is America's best music.
Problem	That something is a problem	The parking situation is a problem because...
Policy	That something should be done	Latin should be a required subject.

**Persuasive Techniques and Strategies**

**Content and Message** There are various types of persuasive appeals:

- Ethos, or appeals to authority—
- Pathos, or appeals to emotion—
- Logos, or appeals to logic—

**Negative Persuasive Techniques**

**Logical fallacies** are types of reasoning that may seem convincing but contain inherent flaws.

- Ad Hominem:
- False Causality:
- Red Herring:
- Overgeneralization:
- Bandwagon:

**Propaganda**, another negative technique, presents one-sided information and does not fairly represent an opposing view. It aims to win, but not to educate or invite discussion.

**Vocabulary Workshops**

The Vocabulary Workshop activities help students develop skills that improve reading comprehension and writing. They help teach students skills such as how to use a dictionary and thesaurus, and they discuss topics such as the use of idioms.

**Idioms and Idiomatic Expressions**

Example	Context Clues
<i>Claire volunteered to be on three committees. Later, she felt that she had bitten off more than she could chew.</i>	The idea that Claire is on three committees helps you understand that the idiom means she had agreed to do too much.
<i>My philosophy is to let sleeping dogs lie rather than to constantly bring up problems.</i>	The words "rather than" set up a contrast. Therefore, you know that <i>let sleeping dogs lie</i> means the opposite of "bring up problems."

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<b>Essential Questions Workshops</b>	<p>During the Essential Questions Workshops, ask students to review the literature in the unit and choose one selection passage that correlates to each Essential Question.</p> <p>Then ask students to complete activities that spotlight one Essential Question. The writing, researching, and discussion activities help deepen students' understanding of the Essential Question.</p>
<b>Independent Reading</b>	<p>The Teacher's Edition provides notes about each book to help make appropriate recommendations to students. Consider dividing students into literature circles for book discussions. The Professional Development Guidebook provides suggestions for running literature circles.</p>
<b>PH Lit Online</b>	<p>The workshop activities are also found online. Students can print lesson assignments and type responses into text boxes and journals. All lesson content is available in an interactive format on PH Lit Online.</p>
<b>Review</b>	<p>This guide discussed the workshops and Independent Reading in Prentice Hall Literature for the American Experience and British Tradition.</p> <p>The Writing Workshops explore different types of writing. Writing Workshops also help students understand the writing process and practice key skills. The Communications Workshops focus on the development of oral language skills. Students build and practice skills during the Vocabulary Workshops. Students summarize their understanding of the Essential Question and write responses, research ideas, and present findings.</p> <p>Independent Reading selections can be used for discussion in literature circles.</p>

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