

Workshops and End-of-Unit Activities

Introduction	This guide discusses the workshops and other end-of-unit activities in Prentice Hall Literature for Grades 6–10. It examines the writing, vocabulary, and communications workshops, and explores lesson activities for Applying the Big Question. It also talks about suggestions for Independent Reading.
The Workshops	Turn to the Student Edition Table of Contents in the Teacher’s Edition and locate any writing workshop that appears at the end of a unit. The other workshops and end-of-unit activities are found on nearby pages.
Writing Workshops	<p>The two writing workshops in each unit focus on writing skills and the writing process. Students practice writing different types of essays, such as descriptive, narrative, and expository.</p> <p>The writing 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.</p> <p>Following guidelines from the Understanding by Design model, it is a good idea to clarify expected outcomes with students before they begin writing. Use the rubrics for self-assessment to discuss the evaluation criteria with the students. The rubrics are located on the last page of each writing workshop.</p> <p>Students begin the writing process with prewriting activities. Students can review their work from the Work In Progress prewriting activity to help with the writing assignment.</p> <p>Teachers can also explicitly teach and model prewriting and drafting strategies. Examples of these strategies include using cubing to gather details, making a timeline, and mapping out a story.</p> <p>Next, students view professional writing models to deepen their understanding of specific writing forms and strategies. Featured authors explain their writing process. Additionally, PH Lit Online includes author videos. In these videos, featured authors discuss their writing process and talk about the rewards of writing.</p> <p>Writing workshops provide the opportunity to teach grammar skills. Examples of grammar skills include how to form plural nouns and identify pronoun-antecedent agreement.</p> <p>Student models provide additional writing samples. For a whole-class activity, discuss each annotation and ask students to analyze how the writer uses specific writing elements.</p>

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

Vocabulary Workshops

The vocabulary workshop activities help students develop skills that improve reading comprehension and writing. They teach students skills such as how to use a dictionary and thesaurus. Discussion topics might include word origins and understanding words with multiple meanings.

Communications Workshops

The communications workshops focus on oral language skills, such as delivering a narrative presentation, evaluating a presentation, and conducting an interview. Students are provided tools to help them develop their presentations or prepare to evaluate a classmate.

To save time, the Professional Development Guidebook provides rubrics for evaluating student work.

Applying the Big Question

These lesson activities have students reflect and summarize their thoughts about the Big Question. Ask students to think, talk, and write about their ideas.

For example, look at the Big Question from Unit 1 in Grade 7: “What is the best way to find the truth?”

First, ask students to think about what they have read during the unit and what they know about truth from their own experience. Have them complete a chart with their ideas.

Next, students talk about the Big Question. They choose an example from their chart and prepare a narrative presentation. They describe how facts, evidence, perceptions, and beliefs contributed to finding the truth.

Finally, students revisit their original response to the Big Question. They write a new response citing what they learned or read during the unit activities that changed or reinforced their initial ideas.

Independent Reading

The Teacher’s Edition provides leveling information and notes about each independent reading book to help teachers make appropriate recommendations to students.

Consider dividing students into literature circles for book discussions. The Professional Development Guidebook provides suggestions for running literature circles.

PH Lit Online

The workshop and end-of-unit activities can also be found online. Students can print lesson assignments and type responses into text boxes. All of the lesson content provided in the textbook is available in an interactive format on PH Lit Online.

Review

This guide discussed workshops and other end-of-unit activities for Prentice Hall Literature Grades 6–10.

There are two writing workshops in each unit that explore different types of writing. The writing workshops help students understand the writing process and practice key skills.

Students build and practice word skills during the vocabulary workshop activities, while communications workshops focus on the development of oral language skills.

Students summarize their understanding of the Big Question through reflection, discussion, and writing.

Finally, leveled Independent Reading selections can be used for discussion during literature circles.