Talent and Hard Work

# UbD-Practical Writing: Expository Essay

Standards :

(state, national, school, network)

TEKS 110.54 and 128.54

Objective(s) for student learning:

(understandings, knowledge, skill)

TSW read nonfiction

TSW analyze text to determine author’s purpose

Essential Question(s):

* What does effective writing look like? Who are models of effective written and oral communication?
* What skills do I already have that help me communicate effectively?
* What skills do I need to acquire to communicate effectively?
* What is the relationship between features of a written style and author’s purpose?

Assessment Evidence:

(performance task(s) and/or other evidence such as quizzes, tests, academic prompts)

Group essay

Opening the lesson/introduction:

(anticipatory set/hook, advance organizer, review)

Journal: “Hard work beats talent when talent doesn’t work hard.” –Tim Notke Explain the meaning of this quotation in our own words. Do you agree with Tim Notke? Why or why not?

Instructional model:

(describe curriculum/content and pedagogy/process)

Students will individually read and annotate Shannon Doyne’s article “Which is More Important: Talent or Hard Work?” Teacher will check for understanding by asking students to verbally articulate Doyne’s major points and the evidence she uses to support them.

The teacher will then split the class into groups of 4-5 (5 is ideal). Groups should be created strategically, ideally with 2 writers of medium-strong skill with 2-3 writers of medium-low skill. A group will be assigned to either “Team Talent” or “Team Hard Work”

The prompt for “Team Talent”: How is talent the most important factor in determining whether a person will be successful?

The prompt for “Team Hard Work”: How is hard work the most important factor in determining whether a person will be successful?

Groups should place a piece of butcher paper in a common space on combined desks or on the floor. Five (5) minutes will be given to the class in which groups silently brainstorm evidence for their point. There should be NO TALKING. You can read what your group members write, but you cannot speak until the time is elapsed.

After the brainstorming session is over, groups have three (3) minutes that their group agrees to use for their paper. At that point, essay writing responsibilities will be divided.

In a common Google Doc, students will work on a group essay. At the top of the Google Doc, responsibilities will be indicated thus:

**Intro-**

**Body Paragraph 1-**

**Body Paragraph 2-**

**Body Paragraph 3 (optional depending on # of group members)-**

**Conclusion-**

Students will then have drafting time for their potion of the group essay.

Once the first draft of the group essay is written, students will read it and apply the Anchor TOMTSR rubric. They will go back and make adjustments to the essay based on their findings.

Checking for understanding and feedback:

(how will you check for understanding and provide feedback for learners)

Doyne annotations

Monitoring and reading butcher paper brainstorm sheets

Monitoring Google Docs group essays in progress

Lesson closure:

Groups will read their position papers to a small audience, alternating from team talent to team hard work. Surveys will be taken before and after the position papers are read on the question “which is more important, talent or hard work?” Whoever gains the most percentage points wins. (Riff on an Oxford-style debate)

Differentiation:

(MI/LS learning profile, readiness, interest)

Accomodation:

(how are you going to accommodate the unique needs of specific students? For example, accommodating language learners and modifying for special education students…be specific-listing students by name can help ensure that you are recognizing and meeting their individual needs)

Materials and resources:

(student and teacher materials, including technology; human, technical, community, and/or material resources)

Writer’s notebooks/Journals

Article: “Which is More Important: Talent or Hard Work?” by Shannon Doyne

Pre-determined group lists

Dell Latitude Tablets

TOMTSR Anchor rubric

Group to listen to position papers and be polled (ideally 10-25 people)