

*The Noyce Foundation
Every Child a Reader and Writer*

UNIT DESIGN

Planning a Personal Narrative Unit Goals for Our Meetings

During our first two days we will. . .

- Understand why we're focusing on significance and plot in personal narrative
- Value the necessity of immersion in reading and writing work
- Practice what we'll teach
- Collaboratively plan a personal narrative unit
- Plan a personal narrative unit specific to the needs & interests of your class

During our third day we will. . .

- Celebrate student success
- Reflect on teaching by looking at teaching notes taken while teaching
- Reflect on students' learning by looking at student work & self-reflections
- Plan ahead for next personal narrative unit
- Plan effective minilessons

UNIT DESIGN

Process for Planning a Personal Narrative Unit

Identify Goals



Determine Indicators of Success and Assessments



Plan Instruction

- Define what is meant by “personal narrative”
- Gather and read personal narrative texts in order to define types of personal narrative writing in the world
- Determine the type(s) of personal narrative texts to study, read and to write
- Determine the elements of this type of personal narrative writing
- Prioritize grade level standards to teach in this unit, always considering depth rather than coverage
- Gather initial understanding from students looking at prior personal narrative writing, and from talking with them to determine what would strengthen them as personal narrative writers

- Gather and study published texts of the determined type as models to use in teaching personal narrative
- Envision what student writing could look like
- Decide on touchstones to use as models of the kind of writing students will do
- Backward plan the unit of study with the writing process as a guide
- Determine topics for lessons as a *roadmap* for class inquiry
- Determine ongoing assessments

- Plan minilessons
- Enter into personal narrative inquiry with students
- Revise the unit of study along the way based on assessments of students’ interests and needs