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| **6th Grade Writing – Planning Tool** |
| Collaborators: | Academic Year: |
| *This planning tool can be used by collaborating teachers across a given school year or term to help insure full implementation of the Iowa Core Content Standards into their classroom instructional and assessment activities.* *Full implementation is accomplished when the district or school is able to provide evidence that an ongoing process is in place to ensure that each and every student is learning the standards and the essential concepts and skills of the Iowa Core. A school that has fully implemented the Iowa Core is engaged in an ongoing process of data gathering and analysis, decision making, identifying actions, and assessing the impact around alignment and professional development focused on content, instruction, and assessment. The school is fully engaged in a continuous improvement process that specifically targets improved student learning and performance.* ***Effective implementation of the Iowa Core is not a simple checklist. Implementation requires that educators strategically and systematically address the knowledge and skills being taught, engage in collaboration around the use of effective instructional practices and materials and develop activities to elicit evidence of student learning that match the level of rigor called for in the standards.*** |
| **Writing Skill** | **Aug.** | **Sept.** | **Oct.** | **Nov.** | **Dec.** | **Jan.** | **Feb.** | **Mar.** | **Apr.** | **May** |
| **Text Types and Purposes** |
| 1. Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence. **(W.6.1.)(DOK 3,4)**
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| * 1. Introduce claim(s) and organize the reasons and evidence clearly.
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| * 1. Support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
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| * 1. Use words, phrases, and clauses to clarify the relationships among claim(s) and reasons.
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| * 1. Establish and maintain a formal style.
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| * 1. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the argument presented.
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| 1. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content. **(W.6.2.) (DOK 3,4)**
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| 1. Introduce a topic; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
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| 1. Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
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| 1. Use appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
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|  | **Aug.** | **Sept.** | **Oct.** | **Nov.** | **Dec.** | **Jan.** | **Feb.** | **Mar.** | **Apr.** | **May** |
| 1. **Use** precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to **inform** about or **explain** the topic.
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| 1. Establish and maintain a formal style.
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| 1. **Provide** a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.
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| 1. **Write** narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences. **(W.6.3.) (DOK3,4)**
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| 1. Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.
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| 1. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
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| 1. Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.
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| 1. Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey experiences and events.
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| 1. Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.
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| **Production and Distribution of Writing** |
| 1. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.) **(W.6.4.) (DOK 3,4)**
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| 1. With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1–3 up to and including grade 6.) **(W.6.5.) (DOK 1,2,3,4)**
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|  | **Aug.** | **Sept.** | **Oct.** | **Nov.** | **Dec.** | **Jan.** | **Feb.** | **Mar.** | **Apr.** | **May** |
| 1. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of three pages in a single sitting. **(W.5.6.) (DOK 1,2)**
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| **Research to Build and Present Knowledge** |
| 1. Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate. **(W.6.7.)(DOK 3,4)**
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| 1. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources; assess the credibility of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and providing basic bibliographic information for sources. **(W.6.8.) (DOK 1,2,3,4)**
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| 1. **Draw** evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. **(W.6.9.) (DOK 2,3,4)**
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| 1. Apply *grade 6 Reading standards* to literature (e.g., "Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres [e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories] in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics").
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| 1. Apply *grade 6 Reading standards* to literary nonfiction (e.g., "Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not").
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| **Range of Writing** |
| 1. **Write** routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences. **(W.6.10.)(DOK 1,2,3,4)**
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**Language Arts Depth-Of-Knowledge Definitions - Writing**

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| ***Level 1 Recall of Information*** Level 1 requires the student to write or recite simple facts. This writing or recitation does **not** include complex synthesis or analysis but basic ideas. The students are engaged in listing ideas or words as in a brainstorming activity prior to written composition, are engaged in a simple spelling or vocabulary assessment or are asked to write simple sentences. Students are **expected** to write and speak using Standard English conventions. This includes using appropriate grammar, punctuation, capitalization and spelling. Some examples that represent but do **not** constitute all of Level 1 performance are:  |

* Use punctuation marks correctly.
* Identify Standard English grammatical structures and refer to resources for correction.

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| ***Level 2 Basic Reasoning*** Level 2 requires some mental processing. At this level students are engaged in first draft writing or brief extemporaneous speaking for a limited number of purposes and audiences. Students are beginning to connect ideas using a simple organizational structure. For example, students may be engaged in note-taking, outlining or simple summaries. Text may be limited to one paragraph. Students demonstrate a basic understanding and appropriate use of such reference materials as a dictionary, thesaurus, or web site. Some examples that represent but do **not** constitute all of Level 2 performance are:  |

* Construct compound sentences.
* Use simple organizational strategies to structure written work.
* Write summaries that contain the main idea of the reading selection and pertinent details.

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| ***Level 3 Complex Reasoning*** Level 3 requires some higher level mental processing. Students are engaged in developing compositions that include multiple paragraphs. These compositions may include complex sentence structure and may demonstrate some synthesis and analysis. Students show awareness of their audience and purpose through focus, organization and the use of appropriate compositional elements. The use of appropriate compositional elements includes such things as addressing chronological order in a narrative or including supporting facts and details in an informational report. At this stage students are engaged in editing and revising to improve the quality of the composition. Some examples that represent but do **not** constitute all of Level 3 performance are:  |

* Support ideas with details and examples.
* Use voice appropriate to the purpose and audience.
* Edit writing to produce a logical progression of ideas.

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| ***Level 4 Extended Reasoning*** Higher-level thinking is central to Level 4. The standard at this level is a multi- paragraph composition that demonstrates synthesis and analysis of complex ideas or themes. There is evidence of a deep awareness of purpose and audience. For example, informational papers include hypotheses and supporting evidence. Students are expected to create compositions that demonstrate a distinct voice and that stimulate the reader or listener to consider new perspectives on the addressed ideas and themes. An example that represents but does **not** constitute all of Level 4 performance is:  |

* Write an analysis of two selections, identifying the common theme and generating a purpose that is appropriate for both.