

Some Tips for Genre Focus Studies



- Set beginning and ending dates and announce these dates to the class. Your genre focus study should last about 2 weeks.
- Gather a wide variety of models (published texts) for this genre. Your IMC specialist can be a huge help on this one!
- Begin by reading these texts and discussing them with your students. Together with your students, build a list of the characteristics of that genre.
- Encourage students to generate ideas for topics about which they could write in this genre.
- Avoid “front-loading” the genre by teaching too much. Get students writing quickly and teach information about the genre as they write (conferences, mini lessons, modeled writing, etc).
- Teach focused lessons that address issues particular to the genre in terms of *both* process and product.
- Be an example for your students. Model your own writing in this genre.
- Help students choose a piece and take it through the writing process (as developmentally appropriate for that grade level). While every piece will be unique – the genre will be the same.
- Our goal is to have each child publish a piece in each focus genre. Some may publish one piece. Others may publish more than one. Some may be short and others much longer. Focus on helping each student publish a piece of writing in that genre.
- As the ending date nears, plan a celebration! Give students an opportunity to share.
- Plan time to assess the student’s published work (Continuum of Developmental Writing in grades K-2 and 6 Traits in grades 3-5). Share the assessment results with the students as developmentally appropriate. Use the assessment results to guide future class mini lessons as well as one-on-one and/or group conferences.