

Process for Planning an Informational Unit

Identify Goals

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



Determine Indicators of Success and Assessments

- Gather and study published informational texts of the determined type as models to use in teaching
- 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 Instruction

- Plan minilessons
- Revise the unit of study along the way based on assessments of students’ interests and needs