

Writing Workshop

The structure of the Writing Workshop should be regular and predictable within a classroom. While Writing Workshop may look a little different depending on grade level, the following are three basic components that make up a Writing Workshop: **Mini-lesson** with direct teacher explanation, **Independent Student Work Time** and guided practice through writing and conferencing, and **Debrief/Share** for sharing and celebrating the work of students to an audience.

Structure	Description/Purpose	Recommended Setting/Time
Mini-lesson	Mini-lessons are the instructional component of the Writing Workshop and begin the workshop each day.	Whole Group 10 - 20 minutes
Independent Student Work Time	During independent student work time, students are given the opportunity to practice and apply skills modeled during mini-lessons. While the students write independently, the teacher is actively involved in conferencing with students (individually or small groups). These conferences allow the teacher to assess progress and determine appropriate instruction.	Individual or Small Group 20 - 45 minutes
Debrief / Share	The Writing Workshop ends each day with a time for sharing. This is appropriate since the purpose of writing is to communicate thoughts and ideas to an audience. During this time, students can share a final copy or a work in progress. Sharing can be held daily as a whole group or small group structure. The sharing time is an important opportunity that provides students a forum to celebrate the work of others.	Whole Group, Small Group or Partners 5 - 10 minutes