



NAPLAN Writing Success: Resource Packs and Video Guides Lesson Notes Extract

Lesson Notes for Narrative Step 1: Plan for Success

This is an extract from the Step 1: Plan for Success Resource Pack for narrative writing. These Lesson Notes accompany the editable Classroom PowerPoints included in each of the nine Resource Packs.

For more information on NAPLAN Writing Success, visit our product page:
<https://www.sevenstepswriting.com/naplan-writing-success/>

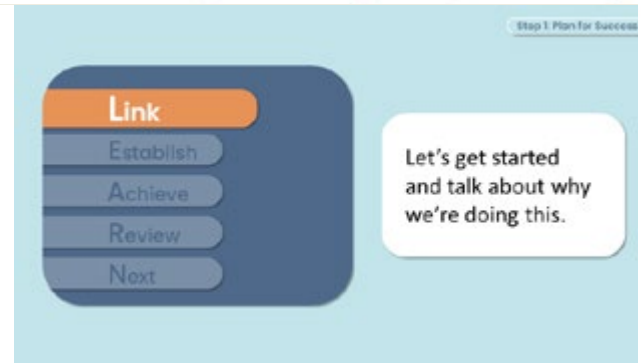
Have questions about how our NAPLAN Writing Success product can help your school?
Call us on (03) 9521 8439 or email info@sevenstepswriting.com



Slide 1

Explain to students that they already know the Seven Steps and how to plan for success. They also know that NAPLAN is coming up.

Help students make the link between revising these skills and preparing for NAPLAN.



Slide 2

This unit is structured as an extended lesson plan using the LEARN framework - Link, Establish, Achieve, Review, Next.

This first section **Links** to previous learning to engage students and show them the big picture.

Refer to the 'LEARN and the Seven Steps' table in the *Teacher Notes* for more information on this framework.



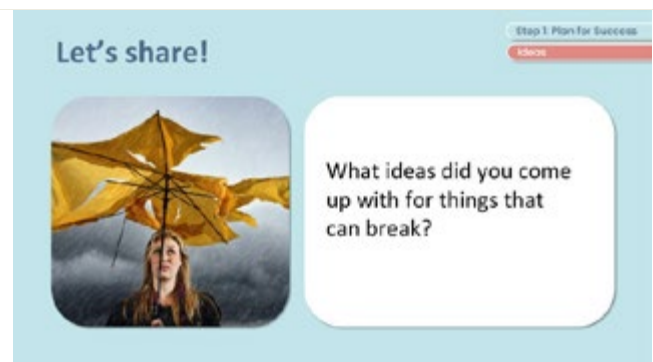
Slide 3

Use this quick starter activity to engage students from the get-go.

Have a timer set for 20 seconds and ensure students have paper and pens ready.

Hit the 'enter' key. Once 'Go!' appears, start the timer and students write down their ideas.

TIP: Avoid displaying the timer/countdown as it makes it difficult for students to get into, and stay in, the Alpha zone.



Slide 4

Ask students to share their ideas with the class.

Record students' responses on the board.

Step 1: Plan for Success
Ideas

Let's share!

How many of you came up with the same ideas?

Why did this happen?



Slide 5

Did you find there were lots of the same ideas?

Encourage students to suggest reasons for why they might come up with the same ideas in an initial brainstorm.

HINT: It's the most obvious ideas that occur to everyone first.

Some students may come up with really unusual ideas in this brainstorm. You could say, 'Hold that thought' or circle those ideas on the board and come back to them later when you're discussing original ideas.

Step 1: Plan for Success
Ideas

Push past your first idea



- Your first idea is often your worst idea because everyone else thinks of it too.
- You need to dig deeper to get an original idea.
- Brainstorm lots of ideas to get one great story idea.

Slide 6


Encourage students to spend 3 of the 5 minutes planning time (available in NAPLAN) brainstorming ideas. This will give them a chance to get into the Alpha zone and push past the ideas that everyone else comes up with.

A trap students often fall into is writing a story that's basically a rehashing of the latest movie they've watched. Emphasise to students that this approach is guaranteed to produce some of their worst ideas!

Step 1: Plan for Success
Ideas

Why are we doing this?

- Seven Steps helps you practise skills for NAPLAN.
- You get points for using Step 1: Plan for Success techniques.
- This means using better developed and more unusual story ideas.




Slide 7

Highlight to the class that they can use the Seven Steps techniques - skills they already know and use- in the NAPLAN writing task.

If you feel it would be counterproductive for your students to hear specific mention of NAPLAN, simply hide this slide prior to presenting it to the class.

Step 1: Plan for Success
Ideas

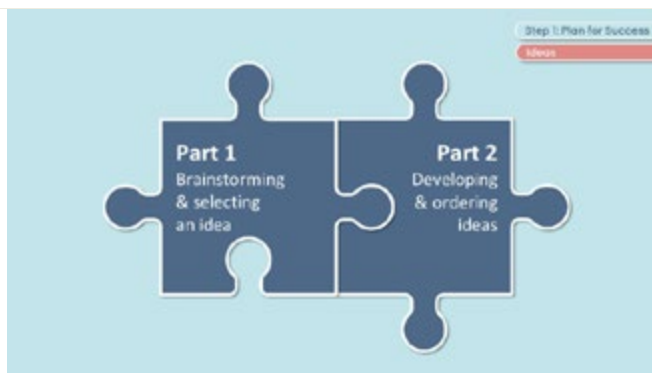


Let's discuss what we're looking for with our success criteria.

Slide 8

Now it's time to **establish** what we're looking for as outlined in the success

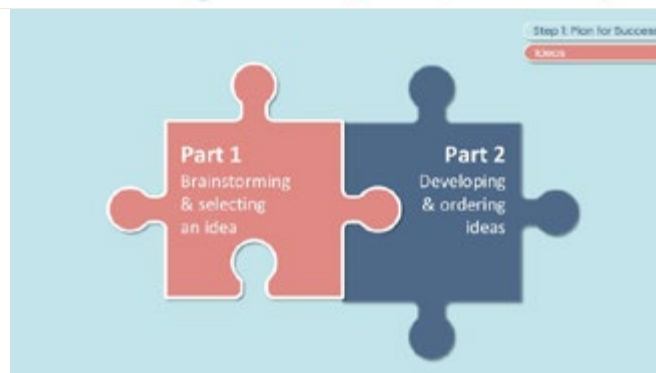
Refer to the 'LEARN and the Seven Steps' table in the *Teacher Notes* for more information on this framework.



Slide 9

Remind students that there are two distinct parts of the Step 1 planning process for narrative writing:

1. Brainstorming and selecting a story idea
2. Developing and ordering ideas for the story

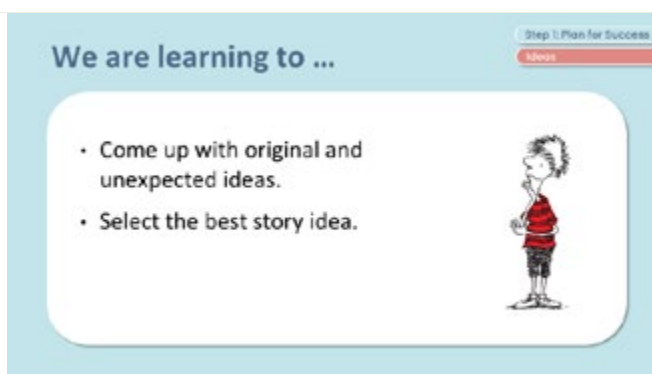


Slide 10

First, we will be working on Part 1: Brainstorming and selecting an idea.

Spending time on this will ensure students have lots of original ideas to use in their writing. NAPLAN awards 6 marks for ideas and values 'unexpected topics'.

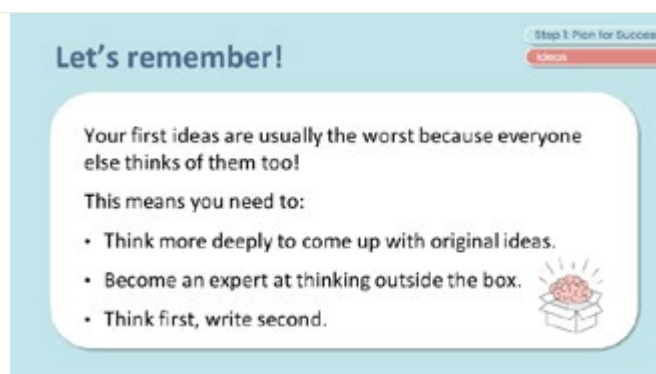
Brainstorming and selecting the best idea are the building blocks for planning and writing a great text, as we will discover later when we look at Part 2: Developing and ordering ideas



Slide 11

Introduce WALT to students.

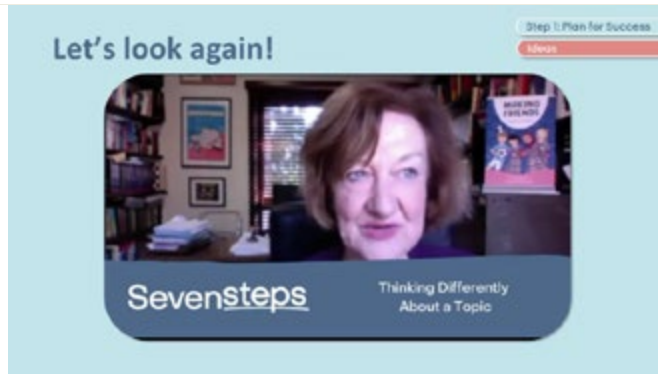
Tell students that we are learning to think more deeply to get original ideas and then select the best idea for their story.



Slide 12

Students will have an opportunity to brainstorm again, but first recap the strategies for coming up with the best ideas.

Do students know what it means to think outside the box? What do they think 'the box' is? You might suggest to students that they go one step further and get rid of the box altogether!

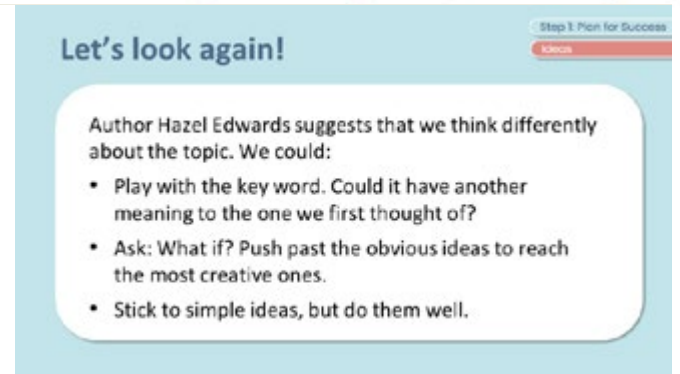


Slide 13

Listen to award-winning author Hazel Edwards discuss how she would approach brainstorming ideas for the NAPLAN prompt 'Following Tracks'.

Hazel Edwards has written over 200 books, including *There's a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake* and *Hijabi Girl*.

After watching the clip, discuss: What tips does Hazel Edwards have that you could use for brainstorming story ideas?

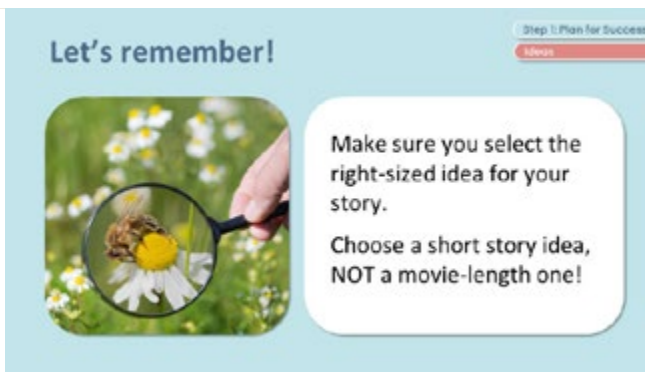


Slide 14

As a class, discuss how you might:

Play around with the key word in the topic. For example, for the topic 'The Big Flood', you might have an idea that 'Big Flood' is the name of a pet Drysdale horse. Push the boundaries of your imagination to ask: What if? What else could be possible? For example, what if Big Flood the horse thinks he's a human?

Avoid getting bogged down in complicated plots - a simple story idea executed well is much better than a rambling tale that gets lost in the details. For example, tell an entertaining anecdote about one of the ways in which Big Flood acts like he's a human - maybe he tries to come to swimming lessons one day and chaos (or an actual big flood) ensues!

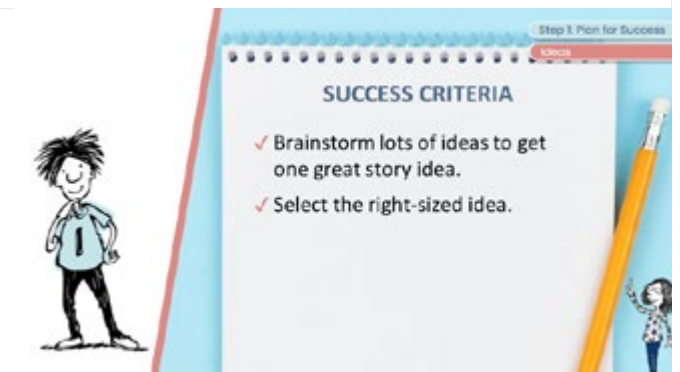


Slide 15

Prior to trying the brainstorm again, emphasise the importance of choosing the right-sized story idea.

It's important that students select a story idea that can be told completely in around 500 words, rather than a rambling saga of 50,000 words!

At Seven Steps, we call it 'a slice of life'.



Slide 16

Reinforce exactly what you want from students by referring to the success criteria (WILF - What I'm looking for).

You could get students to unpack the criteria and rewrite them in their own words to ensure that they understand what they mean and what is required.


The success criteria use Seven Steps language but focus on the following NAPLAN criteria:

- Ideas are generated, selected and crafted to explore a recognisable theme
- Ideas are used skilfully to develop the storyline

Check that students know what a great story idea looks like. Discuss that great story ideas can be described as creative, original, unusual, unexpected and unique!

Step 1: Plan for Success
Ideas

Practice makes perfect!
Brainstorm lots of ideas to get one great idea.
The more you practise brainstorming, the better you'll get at it!



Slide 17

As a class, discuss example scenarios where practising an activity improves performance, such as practising a piece on the piano or practising kicking a ball into the goals.

Explain that practising brainstorming works in the same way. The more you do it, the easier and better it becomes!

Step 1: Plan for Success
Ideas

Let's try again!

Ask yourself:

- Is it too obvious?
- Does it have to be a thing?
- Does it have to be a person?
- Could it be an animal?
- Could it be an idea or concept?

Can you use these tips to dig deeper and improve your first ideas about things that can break?

Take 2 minutes to try!



Slide 18

Set a timer for 2 minutes and have students repeat the earlier brainstorm to come up with more things that can break. The aim is to come up with more original ideas than they did in the first round.

Students can record their brainstorm on the same piece of paper as before but use a different coloured pen this time to add to it. Alternatively, they could use the 'Brainstorming Story Ideas' template on page 2 of the *Student Resources*.

Step 1: Plan for Success
Ideas

Let's share!



Slide 19

Share students' ideas as a class. Did they come up with more varied and unusual ideas than the initial brainstorm?

Step 1: Plan for Success
Ideas

Things that can break ...

Did you get any of these?

• Promises	• Waves
• Hearts	• Friendships
• Voices	• News stories
• Morning	• World records
• Silence	• Cars
• Bubbles	• Wind!



Slide 20

Can students recognise what a good one looks like (WAGOLL)?

How do these less obvious ideas open up opportunities for original story ideas?

Step 1: Plan for Success
Ideas

Things that can break ...

Are some things better when they're broken?

- New shoes
- Nutshells
- Water balloons
- Fortune cookies
- Fresh bread
- Fasts
- Piñatas
- Bad habits
- Eggs
- Droughts



Slide 21

Discuss how these particular ideas are really outside box.

Can students think of any other things that are better when they're broken?

Step 1: Plan for Success
Ideas

Let's select an idea!

Now select your best story idea.
Make sure you pick the right-sized idea!

Ask yourself:

- Is the idea original and unexpected?
- Is it a short story idea (not a movie-length idea)?



Slide 22

Allow a minute for students to select their best story idea from the brainstorm – an original idea that's the right size.

Check that students understand the concept of a right-sized idea. For context, give an example of a story idea that's definitely not the right size for a short story, e.g. a *Lord of the Rings*-style quest where there are lots of characters and subplots. Can students suggest some other examples?

As Hazel Edwards said earlier, it's best to stick to simple ideas, executed well.

Step 1: Plan for Success

Link
Establish
Achieve
Review
Next

Let's practise in a few different ways.

Slide 23

Students now need to demonstrate that they can **achieve** or work towards achieving the success criteria in a variety of activities for different types of learners.

Refer to the 'LEARN and the Seven Steps' table in the *Teacher Notes* for more information on this framework.


Step 1: Plan for Success
Ideas

Let's try again!

As a class, we're going to brainstorm lots of ideas for a new topic and collect them on the board.
Then we'll vote on the best ideas.

Remember ...

- Your first ideas are not always the best – you need to dig deeper.
- You need to be fast – you only have 3 minutes!



Slide 24

Get students ready to brainstorm a NAPLAN topic.

Have a timer set for 3 minutes before revealing the topic on the next slide.

Let's try again!

Step 1: Plan for Success
Ideas

THE GATE
3 minutes ... GO!

Remember the top tips for brainstorming!

- Is it too obvious?
- Does it have to be a thing?
- Does it have to be a person?
- Could it be an animal?
- Could it be an idea or concept?



Slide 25

Quickly alert students to the brainstorming tips and then start the timer (3 minutes) for the class brainstorm about the prompt 'The Gate'.

Record students' ideas on the board as a mind map.

Note that an image has not been provided to accompany the prompt at this stage. This has been done intentionally, to avoid fixing a predictable interpretation of the prompt. When you repeat this process with NAPLAN-style prompts and images, you can make the point to students that sometimes the images will not help them to come up with unexpected and original ideas. You could make it a game to 'Ban the Boring' by disallowing any ideas that appear in the images!

Let's share!

Step 1: Plan for Success
Ideas



Slide 26

As a class, share your ideas and create a list on the board.

Are they original and unexpected?

Let's check!


Step 1: Plan for Success
Ideas

Now, let's look at the success criteria.

Which of our class brainstorm ideas meet the success criteria?

SUCCESS CRITERIA

- ✓ Brainstorm lots of ideas to get one great story idea.
- ✓ Select the right-sized idea.



Slide 27

As a class, check which of the class brainstorm ideas meet the success criteria.


Cross off any ideas on the board that don't make the grade.

The Gate

Step 1: Plan for Success
Ideas

Here are some more story ideas ...

- My name is Gate
- Gateway to heaven
- Don't open the gate!
- The banging gate
- What the gate ate
- Quick, lock the gate!
- I hate being a gate!
- The pet gate
- The gatekeeper
- I hate that gate!
- Gate bait
- The gate vortex



Slide 28

Take a moment to display some other story ideas for the topic 'The Gate'.

Did students think of any of these?

You could use this slide for students who are struggling to come up with an idea on their own.

A presentation slide with a light blue background. At the top right, it says 'Step 1: Plan for Success' and 'Ideas'. On the left, there is an illustration of many colorful hands raised. On the right, a text box contains the following text: 'Now, we're going to have a secret ballot. Close your eyes and vote by raising a hand when you hear your favourite idea. READY?' A small cartoon meerkat is sitting at the bottom right of the text box.

Let's vote!

Now, we're going to have a secret ballot. Close your eyes and vote by raising a hand when you hear your favourite idea. READY?

Slide 29

Read through each idea from the board (that hasn't already been eliminated) so students can vote for their favourite.

Record the number of votes next to each idea.

A presentation slide with a light blue background. At the top right, it says 'Step 1: Plan for Success' and 'Ideas'. On the left, a text box contains the following text: 'Which are the best 3 ideas? Choose your favourite idea from the top 3. Now explain your choice to a partner.' On the right, there is an illustration of a hand holding a speech bubble that says 'Make sure the idea you've chosen is a short story idea!' in red text.

Let's decide!

Which are the best 3 ideas? Choose your favourite idea from the top 3. Now explain your choice to a partner.

Make sure the idea you've chosen is a short story idea!

Slide 30

Read out the top 3 ideas based on the class vote.

Students pick their favourite from these and record it in their workbooks.

A presentation slide with a light blue background. At the top right, it says 'Step 1: Plan for Success' and 'Ideas'. On the left, there is an illustration of three yellow smiley face emojis stacked vertically. On the right, a text box contains the following text: 'SELF-ASSESSMENT I can: ✓ brainstorm lots of ideas to get one great story idea ✓ select the right-sized idea for my story.' A small cartoon meerkat is sitting at the bottom right of the text box.

Let's check!

SELF-ASSESSMENT

I can:

- ✓ brainstorm lots of ideas to get one great story idea
- ✓ select the right-sized idea for my story.

Slide 31

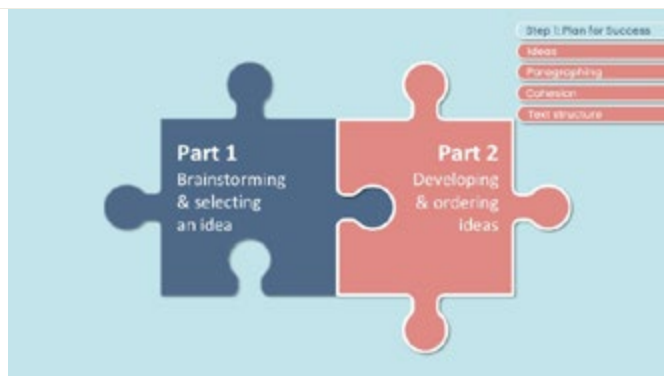
Students use the 'Self-Assessment' template on page 7 of the Student Resources to measure their progress by completing **the first two rows only**.

A presentation slide with a background image of tall trees reaching towards the sky. In the center, there is a white rounded rectangle with the text 'Taking it further' in bold black font.

Taking it further

Slide 32

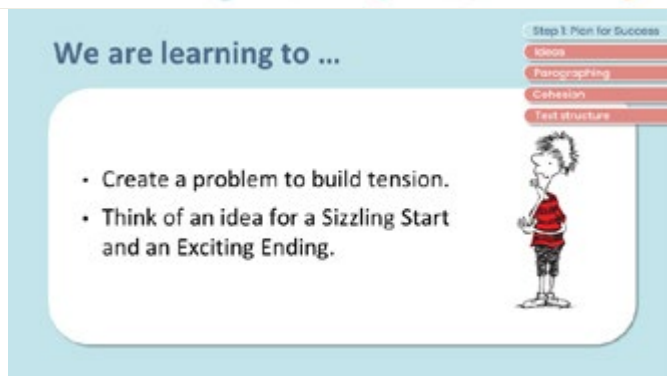
The Taking it Further section is designed to help build and develop students' skills and stretch your more capable students.



Slide 33

Now that students have selected a story idea, it's time to turn our attention to Part 2: Developing and ordering ideas.

Spending time on this will ensure students develop their story idea into a complete plan, with a Sizzling Start, a problem and an Exciting Ending. This aligns with NAPLAN's requirement for texts containing an orientation, complication and resolution.

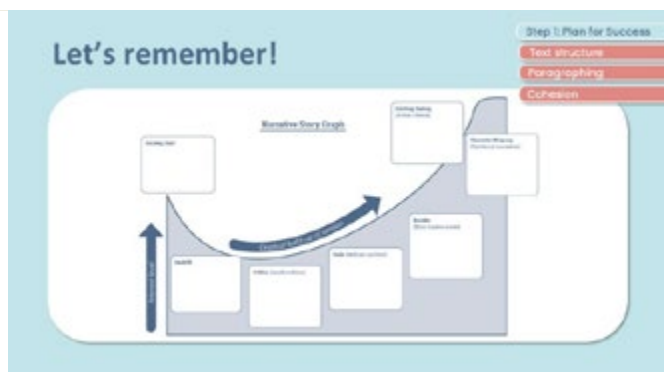


Slide 34

Here's WALT again to show us how we can extend our learning.

Remind students that we have already learnt how to brainstorm lots of ideas to get an original idea and select the right-sized idea.

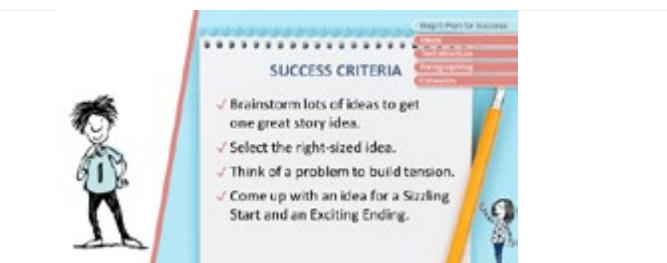
Now we're going to revise how to complete the plan with a Sizzling Start, a problem and an Exciting Ending.



Slide 35

Once students have selected their story idea, it's time to develop that idea into a complete plan using the story graph.

Under test conditions, students won't have time to complete the whole story graph, so we're going to step you through the most important parts in the next activity.



Slide 36

Reinforce exactly what you want from students by referring to the success criteria.


You have already covered the first two points in this list. Hit 'Enter' to bring up the additional success criteria. As before, you can have students rewrite these new success criteria in their own words to enhance their understanding of what you're looking for.

The success criteria use Seven Steps language but focus on the following NAPLAN criteria:


- Ideas are generated, selected and crafted to explore a recognisable theme
- Ideas are used skilfully to develop the storyline
- Text contains an orientation, complication and resolution (plan, not text, at this stage)
- Text contains an effective ending (plan, not text, at this stage)
- All paragraphs are focused on one idea or set of like ideas and enhance the narrative (plan, not text, at this stage)

Let's take it further!

Step 1: Plan for Success
Ideas
Text structure



Brainstorm 3 problems for the story idea you have chosen. Then pick the most interesting problem to include in your story.



Slide 37

Have students use the 'Problem Brainstorm' template on page 3 of the Student Resources to brainstorm three problems for the story idea they've chosen. They can add their story idea to the top of the template.

Initially, set a timer for 6 minutes for this brainstorm but gradually reduce the time as students get better and quicker.

Students then pick their best problem idea by ticking the box next to it on the template.

You could use the next slide to inspire any students who are struggling to come up with problems for their story idea.

What if ...

Step 1: Plan for Success
Ideas
Text structure



- The gate is stuck and won't open.
- Gate is a vegetarian alligator.
- The gate swallows things whole.




Slide 38


Display these problem ideas as inspiration or if students are struggling to think of their own.

Let's take it further!

Step 1: Plan for Success
Ideas
Text structure
Paragraphing



Make sure your story has a beginning and an ending. Think about a Sizzling Start and an Exciting Ending and then record your ideas on the template.



Slide 39


Have students use the 'Planning Template' on page 4 of the Student Resources.

First, they can add the problem they chose from the brainstorm you've just done.

Then students think about and record their ideas for a Sizzling Start and an Exciting Ending on the template.

Picture your ideas on the Story Graph

Step 1: Plan for Success
Paragraphing
Text structure



Slide 40

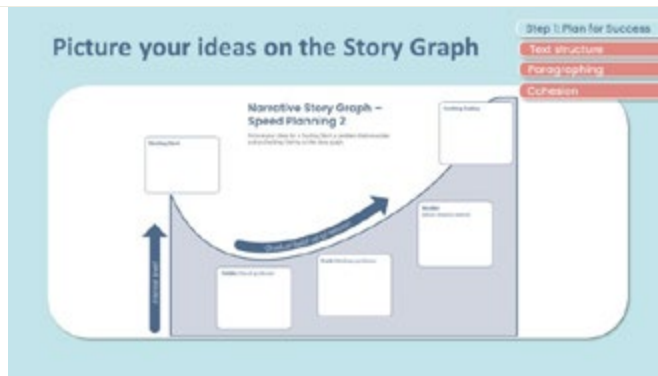
Encourage students to visualise the story graph as they plan their story. They will need to remember to include:

- a Sizzling Start
- a problem
- an Exciting Ending.

While the story graph is displayed for the class, try this fun and quick activity to get students' creative juices flowing: In pairs, students take turns telling their story. They have 2 minutes to really 'sell' it to their partner, so they have to work fast! Afterwards, ask students: Did your story follow the story graph?

This story graph template has been provided on page 5 of the Student Resources for reference; however, there is insufficient time during the NAPLAN writing test for students to actually complete one, which is why we suggest students simply visualise it during the planning stage.

This might also be a good time to talk to students about planning on test day. For the best chance at Alpha thinking, we recommend that students plan their story on the scrap paper provided rather than in the writing pane on their device, as this will need to be deleted at the end of the test so it's not marked.



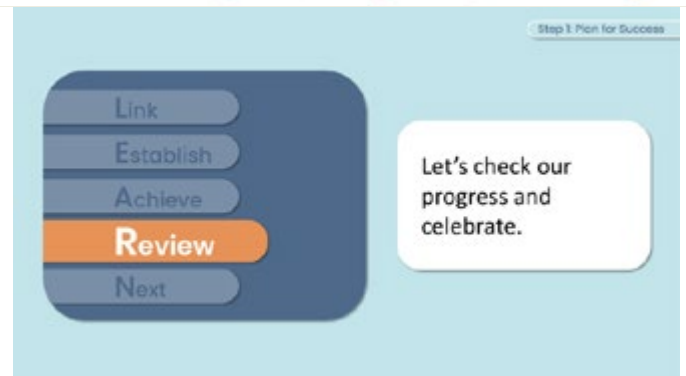
Slide 41

More competent students can use the story graph on page 6 of the *Student Resources*.

Encourage them to visualise the story graph as they plan their story. They will need to remember to include:

- a Sizzling Start
- a problem that escalates (pebble, rock, boulder)
- an Exciting Ending.

We will come back to how to escalate a problem in the Step 3 Resource Pack.



Slide 42

Let's **review** student progress using teacher, peer or self-assessment.

Refer to the 'LEARN and the Seven Steps' table in the *Teacher Notes* for more information on this framework.



Slide 43

Students refer back to the 'Self-Assessment' template that they started in Part 1: Brainstorming and selecting an idea (*Student Resources*, page 7).

This time, they measure their progress by completing the remaining two rows.

Conference with students to decide what areas to focus on next and to set goals for improvement.




Slide 44

Congratulate the class! They've brainstormed and selected an idea and then developed and ordered story ideas to create a plan for a whole story!

And they've learnt how to do this in a very limited amount of time!

There is a Step 1 certificate in the Resource Pack that you can use to reward students.

Step 1: Plan for Success



Let's look ahead and keep practising.

Slide 45

Finally, discuss the next steps, including additional practice and assessing progress against the big picture.

Refer to the 'LEARN and the Seven Steps' table in the Teacher Notes for more information on this framework.

Let's look ahead!




Slide 46

You've made great progress! Now that your students are experts at Step 1: Plan for Success, let's move on to Step 2: Sizzling Starts!

Step 1: Plan for Success

Let's repeat!

It's important to practise!
Repetition builds muscle memory.
Practise with a new writing prompt every day to get faster and more creative at planning for success.




Slide 47

If possible, conduct a quick class brainstorm every day using different prompts.

You'll be amazed at what a difference it makes to your students' brainstorming abilities!

Step 1: Plan for Success

Let's keep practising!



You're doing great, so let's keep up the momentum!
What amazing story ideas will you come up with for the next writing prompt?

Slide 48

Use the writing prompts at the end of this slide show to help students practise their brainstorming and planning skills.

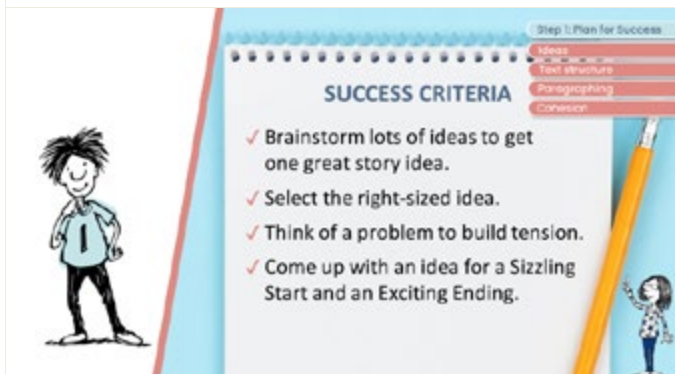


Slide 49

Use a range of different writing prompts to improve students' ability to brainstorm original ideas and create a plan for their story in a short amount of time. The goal is to have students complete this process in 5 minutes, to match NAPLAN test conditions.

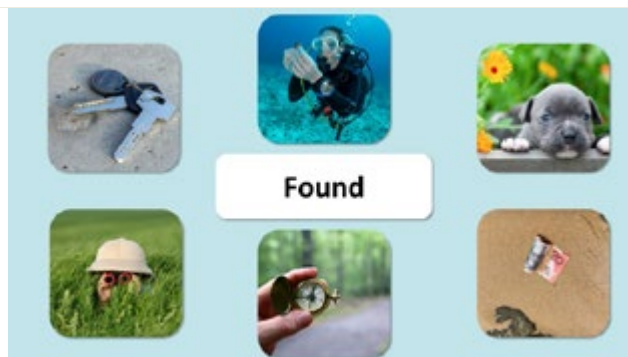
Initially, students can use the 'Planning Template' on page 4 of the Student Resources to plan their stories. And then, with practice, they can move on to using a blank sheet of paper to simulate test conditions.

Note: In a similar style to the ACARA NAPLAN prompt, we have added images to these practice slides. While this can affect students' ability to think outside the box, images have been provided in this instance to mimic the conditions of the NAPLAN test prompts more closely. Students will need to practise NOT looking at the pictures and NOT writing about the things they can see in the images! We have not provided all the usual text-based instructions as these prompts are intended to be used in a quick and repetitive way to increase student skill and confidence in thinking and planning swiftly ahead of the writing test.



Slide 50

Prior to displaying the writing prompt, conduct a quick revision of the success criteria with your class.



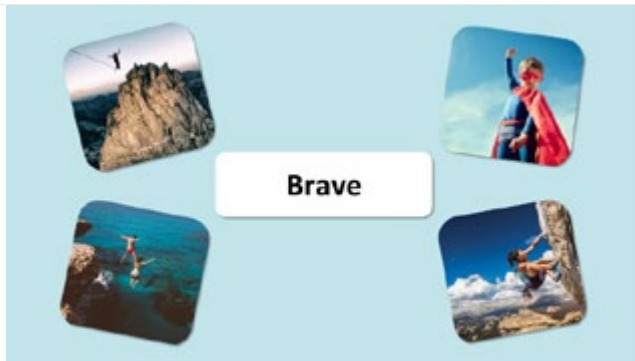
Slide 51

Students brainstorm ideas and create a plan for the writing prompt 'Found'. This writing prompt is from a previous NAPLAN test.

The goal is to have students complete this in 5 minutes, to match NAPLAN test conditions.

Initially, students can use the 'Planning Template' on page 4 of the Student Resources to plan their stories. And then, with practice, they can move on to using a blank sheet of paper to simulate test conditions.

Remind students to ignore the pictures so they can come up with original ideas!



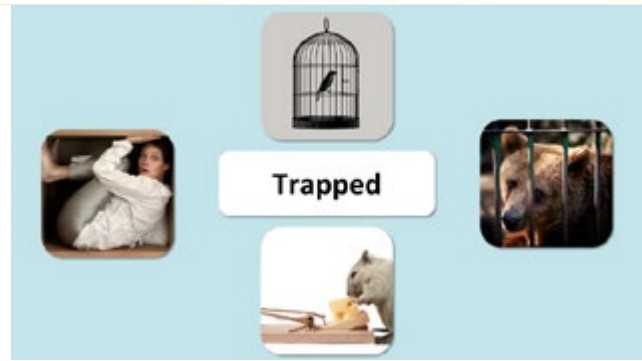
Slide 52

Students brainstorm ideas and create a plan for the writing prompt 'Found'. This writing prompt is from a previous NAPLAN test.

The goal is to have students complete this in 5 minutes, to match NAPLAN test conditions.

Initially, students can use the 'Planning Template' on page 4 of the Student Resources to plan their stories. And then, with practice, they can move on to using a blank sheet of paper to simulate test conditions.

Remind students to ignore the pictures so they can come up with original ideas!



Slide 53

Students brainstorm ideas and create a plan for the writing prompt 'Trapped'. This writing prompt is from a previous NAPLAN test.

The goal is to have students complete this in 5 minutes, to match NAPLAN test conditions.

Initially, students can use the 'Planning Template' on page 4 of the Student Resources to plan their stories. And then, with practice, they can move on to using a blank sheet of paper to simulate test conditions.

Remind students to ignore the pictures so they can come up with original ideas!



Slide 54

Students brainstorm ideas and create a plan for the writing prompt 'The Mirror'. This writing prompt is from a previous NAPLAN test.

The goal is to have students complete this in 5 minutes, to match NAPLAN test conditions.

Initially, students can use the 'Planning Template' on page 4 of the Student Resources to plan their stories. And then, with practice, they can move on to using a blank sheet of paper to simulate test conditions.

Remind students to ignore the pictures so they can come up with original ideas!

Copyright information

© Seven Steps to Writing Success, 2022

This PowerPoint is for single school use.

www.sevenstepswriting.com

Image credits

iStock: Trifonenko; S-S-S; RapidEye; nycshooter; RichVintage; BadBrother; diephosi; FireflyLight; lisegagne; johnnylemonseed; amtitus; DrAfter123; smartboy10; PeopleImages; akinbostanci; MarioGuti; I going to make a greatest artwork as I can, by my head, my hand and by my mind; Sonsedska; StockPlanets; kertlis; Yulia Melnyk; Mihaela Rosu; Evgen_Prozhyrko; Global_Pics; Kukurund; Maartje van Caspel; georgeolsson; kimichele; BrianAJackson; gregepperson; wundervisuals; vernonwiley; maystra; DuxX; MediaProduction; ThomasVogel; Rawpixel

Line drawings by Ian Forss

NAPLAN Writing Success

Here's what you get!

Resource Packs and Video Guides

Your road map to helping students approach NAPLAN with confidence!

The screenshot shows the main content area of the NAPLAN Writing Success website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Return to Previous Page' and 'ANALISE'. Below that, a video player shows a woman speaking. The main heading is 'NAPLAN Writing Success'. Below the heading, there's a congratulatory message and a list of features. The page is divided into two main parts: 'Part 1: Learn the Seven Steps Approach to NAPLAN' and 'Part 2: How to Use the Resource Packs'. Each part includes a video player, a list of features, and download links for various resources.

Part 1 Video Guide: Our Approach

See how the core structural Steps align with the NAPLAN marking criteria for writing, and learn our recommended approach for fun and effective preparation.

Part 2 Video Guide: Resource Packs

We explain the thinking and structure behind the resources, as well as showing you how to use them in your classroom.

Teacher Notes

Explore detailed reference tables on NAPLAN and the Seven Steps. Plus, there's an overview of the LEARN framework, which underpins the Resource Packs.

Resource Packs

Here, you'll find Classroom PowerPoints, Lesson notes, Student Resources and certificates for each of the core structural Steps to revise and prepare for NAPLAN.



NAPLAN Writing Success

Resource Packs and Video Guides

Ready-made NAPLAN revision that's fun, effective and saves you time

- Save planning time
- Turbo-charge engagement
- Maximise limited prep time
- Make NAPLAN markers happy



Learn more:

www.sevenstepswriting.com/naplan-writing-success