

4-Week Guide to NAPLAN

While the Seven Steps is usually taught over a longer period so students can practise and master each Step, we know NAPLAN can creep up on you! If you only have a few weeks before NAPLAN, this quick guide can help you prepare your students by giving them the skills and confidence to write a unique response.

| Timeline | Topic | Task | Theory | Activities |
|---------------|----------------------------|---|---|--|
| Week 1 | Brainstorming and planning | Brainstorming ideas quickly and effectively is the key to producing a great NAPLAN response. | <p>Blog post: Top 3 brainstorming tips</p> <p>Teacher Hub members: Jen McVeity's NAPLAN strategies video: So, how did I plan?</p> | <p>Blog post: NAPLAN preparation – top tips and activities</p> |
| Week 2 | Collaborative writing | <p>Planning and writing collaboratively allows students to learn from each other.</p> <p>Sizzling Starts are an easy way to achieve points in NAPLAN!</p> | <p>NAPLAN writing samples</p> <p>Blog post: 6 myths about NAP – persuasive</p> <p>Teacher Hub members: Theory video: Putting It All Together (persuasive writing)</p> | <p>Lesson 1: Sharing the Load</p> <p>Blog post: Group activity for persuasive writing</p> <p>Teacher Hub members: Putting It All Together Writing Prompts (narrative, persuasive)</p> |
| Week 3 | Going solo | Build confidence by gradually reducing the number of students in the group until students are planning and writing independently. | <p>Teacher Hub members: Theory video: Putting It All Together (persuasive writing)</p> | <p>Lesson 2: Gaining Confidence</p> <p>Lesson 3: Practice Makes Perfect</p> <p>Lesson 4: Going Solo</p> |
| Week 4 | Time to practise! | Sitting practice tests is the best way to prepare students for the big day. | <p>NAPLAN writing samples</p> <p>Teacher Hub members: Jen McVeity's NAPLAN strategies video: How to practise for NAPLAN</p> | <p>Lesson 5: Tried and Tested</p> <p>Assessment: NAPLAN marking guides</p> <p>Teacher Hub members: Assessment resources (narrative, persuasive) Putting It All Together resources (narrative, persuasive)</p> |

For a comprehensive look at NAPLAN and the Seven Steps, check out our complete NAPLAN writing guide for teachers: <https://sevenstepswriting.com/naplan-writing-guide/>



Putting It All Together

Lesson 1

Sharing the Load

Brainstorming ideas and then writing a complete text as a group helps students see how all of the techniques work together.

Ask students to form groups of 5 and provide them with a topic. Get students to brainstorm ideas as a group and plot them on the story graph.

After 10 minutes, each student in the group must write one of the paragraphs in the text based on their plan. Get students to read out their paragraphs, in order, to the rest of the group.



Lesson 2

Gaining Confidence

Gradually reducing the number of students in the group helps build students' confidence.

Ask students to form groups of 2 or 3 and provide them with a new topic. After brainstorming ideas and plotting them on the story graph, one student writes the introduction and conclusion while the other(s) write the body paragraphs based on their plan.

Again, ask students to read their paragraphs in order within their groups.



Lesson 3

Practice Makes Perfect

Repetition builds muscle memory.

Run Lesson 2 again with a new topic, but this time switch the type of text, i.e. from narrative to persuasive.

Lesson 4

Going Solo

Writing individually puts everything students have learnt to the test.

Give students a topic and get them to plan and write a complete text individually. Give them 10 minutes to plan and 40 minutes to write. Ask students to find a friend and share their texts.



Lesson 5

Tried and Tested

Sitting a practice test is a great way to fully prepare students for the big day.

By now students should feel comfortable writing a complete text, but test conditions add that extra element of stress. Use a past NAPLAN paper (www.acara.edu.au/assessment/naplan/naplan-2012-2016-test-papers) and try to simulate the test conditions exactly for maximum effect.

