Class: Language Arts – Paragraphs, Poetry, and Prose: Elementary Writing

Class Length: 24 weeks
Schedule: 5-day/week lesson plan

Resources needed:
- Corresponding lessons on SchoolhouseTeachers.com
- Journal for notetaking and research

Instructions: This suggested lesson plan is broken down into separate weeks and days. On the line beside each day, write the specific day of the month you would like your student to complete each assignment (consider writing dates in pencil). As your student completes each assignment, he/she can mark the check box beside it. When the entire lesson has been completed, come back to this page and mark the checkbox beside that lesson. Once the entire course has been completed, consider printing out a Certificate of Completion as well.

Use the note boxes on each page to provide further instructions, leave a message for your student, remind yourself about the details of a particular lesson, and so on.

Lessons Completed
(Check the following boxes as you have completed each lesson.)

☐ Lesson 1: What Is a Paragraph?
☐ Lesson 2: Importance of a Topic Sentence
☐ Lesson 3: Supporting the Topic Sentence
☐ Lesson 4: Strong Closing Sentences
☐ Lesson 5: Memorable Characters
☐ Lesson 6: Interesting Settings
☐ Lesson 7: Descriptive Words to Paint a Picture
☐ Lesson 8: Writing a Short Descriptive Story
☐ Lesson 9: Summaries and Biographies
☐ Lesson 10: The Importance of Order
☐ Lesson 11: Biography Summary
☐ Lesson 12: Putting It All Together
☐ Lesson 13: Basics of a Three-Paragraph Essay
☐ Lesson 14: Body Paragraphs and Necessary Information
☐ Lesson 15: Interesting Introductions and Connected Closing
☐ Lesson 16: Turning Essays into Speeches
☐ Lesson 18: Breaking Traditional Writing Rules
☐ Lesson 19: Importance of Facts
☐ Lesson 20: Create a Newspaper
☐ Lesson 21: What Is Sensory Poetry?
☐ Lesson 22: Sensory Words
☐ Lesson 23: Word Connotation
☐ Lesson 24: Wrap-Up Sensory Poetry Project
Week 1: What Is a Paragraph?

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _________________________________

☐ Download the Lessons from the Class Lessons Page.
☐ Read the text provided for Week 1 on pp. 1–2.

Day 2 | Date: _________________________________

☐ In your journal, write a paragraph of five to seven sentences with a central thought. Don’t worry about the topic or closing sentences, we’ll address those later. Focus on writing complete, correct sentences on one topic.
☐ Have a parent check your paragraph using the rubric on page 2.

Day 3 | Date: _________________________________

☐ In your journal, write a paragraph of five to seven sentences with a central thought. Don’t worry about the topic or closing sentences, we’ll address those later. Focus on writing complete, correct sentences on one topic.
☐ Have a parent check your paragraph using the rubric on page 2.

Day 4 | Date: _________________________________

☐ In your journal, write a paragraph of five to seven sentences with a central thought. Don’t worry about the topic or closing sentences, we will address those later. Focus on writing complete, correct sentences on one topic.
☐ Have a parent check your paragraph using the rubric on page 2.

Day 5 | Date: _________________________________

☐ Review the material given for this week's lesson.
☐ Update the paragraphs that a parent checked in order to improve your grade.
Week 2: The Importance of a Topic Sentence

| NOTES: | Day 1 | Date: _________________________________ |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
|        | ☐ Read the text provided for Week 2 on pp. 2–3. |

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<th>Day 2</th>
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<td>☐ Look through your reading books, textbooks, lessons, or newspapers and identify topic sentences. Read a minimum of five paragraphs and write down the topic and topic sentence of the paragraph in your journal.</td>
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<th>Day 3</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ In your journal, write a paragraph of five to seven sentences about your pet or a friend’s pet. Be sure to include a topic sentence.</td>
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<td>☐ Have a parent check your paragraph using the rubric on page 3.</td>
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<th>Day 4</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ In your journal, write a paragraph of five to seven sentences about your pet or a friend’s pet. Be sure to include a topic sentence.</td>
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<td>☐ Have a parent check your paragraph using the rubric on page 3.</td>
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<th>Day 5</th>
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<td></td>
<td>☐ Review the material given for this week's lesson.</td>
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<td>☐ Update the paragraphs that a parent checked in order to improve your grade.</td>
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Week 3: Supporting the Topic Sentence

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: ________________________________
☐ Read the text provided for Week 3 on pp. 3–4.

Day 2 | Date: ________________________________
☐ In your journal, revise a paragraph from a previous lesson and give it supporting sentences to move the paragraph forward. Be sure to include five to seven sentences.
☐ Have a parent check your paragraph using the rubric on page 4.

Day 3 | Date: ________________________________
☐ In your journal, revise a paragraph from a previous lesson and give it supporting sentences to move the paragraph forward. Be sure to include five to seven sentences.
☐ Have a parent check your paragraph using the rubric on page 4.

Day 4 | Date: ________________________________
☐ In your journal, write a paragraph on any topic and give it supporting sentences to move the paragraph forward. Be sure to include five to seven sentences.
☐ Have a parent check your paragraph using the rubric on page 4.

Day 5 | Date: ________________________________
☐ Review the material given for this week's lesson.
☐ Update the paragraphs that a parent checked in order to improve your grade.
Week 4: Strong Closing Sentences

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _________________________________

☐ Read the text provided for Week 4 on pp. 4–5.
☐ Review Lessons 1–4.

Day 2 | Date: _________________________________

☐ In your journal, take a paragraph that you have written during this unit and create a closing sentence that relates to the opening sentence. Highlight the sentences. Make sure you have great supporting sentences in between the opening and closing ones.
☐ Have a parent check your paragraph using the rubric on page 5.
☐ Review Lessons 1–4.

Day 3 | Date: _________________________________

☐ In your journal, take a paragraph you've written during this unit and create a closing sentence that relates back to the opening sentence. Highlight the sentences. Also, make sure you have great supporting sentences in between the opening and closing ones.
☐ Have a parent check your paragraph using the rubric on page 5.

Day 4 | Date: _________________________________

☐ Update the paragraphs that a parent checked in order to improve your grade.
☐ Review Lessons 1–4.

Day 5 | Date: _________________________________

☐ Take the Unit One Paragraph Quiz on page 6.
☐ Have a parent check your answers and grade your quiz.
Week 5: Memorable Characters

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Read the text provided for Week 5 on page 7.

Day 2 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Read through the Character Sketch on page 8 and think about the character you are going to choose.

Day 3 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Fill out the Character Sketch on page 8 using the ideas you brainstormed yesterday.
☐ Read the information given on page 9.

Day 4 | Date: _________________________________
☐ In your journal, write a paragraph describing your character. Use five to seven sentences, as well as topic and closing sentences.
☐ Have a parent check your paragraph using the rubric on page 9.

Day 5 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Review the material given for this week's lesson.
☐ Update the paragraph that a parent checked in order to improve your grade.
Week 6: Interesting Settings

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Read the text provided for Week 6 on pp. 9-10.

Day 2 | Date: _________________________________
☐ In your journal, write a paragraph describing your room and its condition using page 10 as a sample.
☐ Have a parent check your paragraph using the rubric on page 10.

Day 3 | Date: _________________________________
☐ In your journal, write a paragraph describing your state.
☐ Have a parent check your paragraph using the rubric on page 10.

Day 4 | Date: _________________________________
☐ In your journal, write a paragraph describing your town.
☐ Have a parent check your paragraph using the rubric on page 10.

Day 5 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Review the material given for this week’s lesson.
☐ Update the paragraph that a parent checked in order to improve your grade.
Week 7: Descriptive Words to Paint a Picture

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Read the text provided for Week 7 on pp. 10–11.

Day 2 | Date: _________________________________
☐ In your journal, take the paragraph describing your room and its condition and add in descriptive words that will engage the senses.
☐ Have a parent discuss your paragraph using the guidelines on page 11.

Day 3 | Date: _________________________________
☐ In your journal, take the paragraph describing your state and add in descriptive words that engage the senses.
☐ Have a parent discuss your paragraph using the guidelines on page 11.

Day 4 | Date: _________________________________
☐ In your journal, take the paragraph describing your town and add in descriptive words that engage the senses.
☐ Have a parent discuss your paragraph using the guidelines on page 11.

Day 5 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Review the material given for this week's lesson.
Week 8: Writing a Short Descriptive Story

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _________________________________

☐ Read the text provided for Week 8 on pp. 11–13.
☐ Review Lessons 4–8.

Day 2 | Date: _________________________________

☐ Review Lessons 4–8.

Day 3 | Date: _________________________________

☐ In your journal, begin writing your short story.
☐ Review Lessons 4–8.

Day 4 | Date: _________________________________

☐ Continue writing your short story.
☐ Review Lessons 4–8.

Day 5 | Date: _________________________________

☐ Finish up your short story.
☐ Have a parent check your story using the rubric on page 13.
☐ Take the Unit Two Creative Writing Quiz on page 14.
☐ Have a parent check your answers and grade your quiz.
NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Read the text provided for Week 9 on pp. 15–17.

Day 2 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Fill in the Summary Outline on pp. 16–17.

Day 3 | Date: _________________________________
☐ In your journal, write the first paragraph of a two-paragraph summary about a funny or memorable event that happened to you or a family member.

Day 4 | Date: _________________________________
☐ In your journal, write the second paragraph of a two-paragraph summary about a funny or memorable event that happened to you or a family member.
☐ Have a parent check your paragraph using the rubric on page 17.

Day 5 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Review the material given for this week's lesson.
☐ Update the paragraphs that a parent checked in order to improve your grade.
Week 10: The Importance of Order

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Read the text provided for Week 10 on pp. 17–19.

Day 2 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Fill in the Order of Importance Outline and Order of Events Outline on pp. 18–19.

Day 3 | Date: _________________________________
☐ In your journal, write a two-paragraph essay using the Order of Importance Outline.

Day 4 | Date: _________________________________
☐ In your journal, write a two-paragraph essay using the Order of Events Outline.

Day 5 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Review the material given for this week's lesson.
☐ Ask a parent to review your paragraphs and give you pointers on how to improve.
### Week 11: Biography Summary

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<td>☐</td>
<td>Read the text provided for Week 11 on pp. 19–20.</td>
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<td>☐</td>
<td>Research a missionary online and print out that person's biography.</td>
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<td>☐</td>
<td>Begin reading the biography. As you read, decide what is important and highlight that information about the person's life.</td>
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<td>☐</td>
<td>Continue reading the biography. As you read, decide what is important and highlight that information about the person's life.</td>
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<td>☐</td>
<td>Finish reading the biography. As you read, decide what is important and highlight that information about the person's life.</td>
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<td>☐</td>
<td>Review the material given for this week's lesson.</td>
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<td>☐</td>
<td>Ask a parent to review your research and discuss what is important to include in an essay and what would be necessary.</td>
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### Week 12: Putting It All Together

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<td>☐ Read the text provided for Week 12 on pp. 20–21.</td>
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<td>☐ Review Lessons 9–12.</td>
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<td>Day 2</td>
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<td>☐ Fill in the Summary Outline on page 20 using the information you gathered from last week’s lesson.</td>
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<td>☐ Review Lessons 9–12.</td>
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<td>Day 3</td>
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<td>☐ In your journal, write the first paragraph of the essay using the Summary Outline.</td>
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<td>☐ Review Lessons 9–12.</td>
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<td>☐ In your journal, write the second paragraph of the essay using the Summary Outline.</td>
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<td>☐ Have a parent check your summary by using the rubric on page 21.</td>
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<td>☐ Review Lessons 9–12.</td>
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<td>Day 5</td>
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<td>☐ Update the summary that a parent checked in order to improve your grade.</td>
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<td>☐ Take the Unit Three Summary Quiz on page 22.</td>
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<td>☐ Have a parent check your answers and grade your quiz.</td>
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NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____________________________

☐ Read the text provided for Week 13 on pp. 23–26.

Day 2 | Date: _____________________________

☐ Fill in the Three-Paragraph Essay Outline on page 25.

Day 3 | Date: _____________________________

☐ Begin writing the three-paragraph essay using the outline you filled in yesterday.

Day 4 | Date: _____________________________

☐ Finish writing the three-paragraph essay.

☐ Have a parent check your essay using the rubric on page 26.

Day 5 | Date: _____________________________

☐ Review the material given for this week's lesson.

☐ Update the essay, checked by a parent, in order to improve your grade.
Week 14: Body Paragraphs and Necessary Information

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Read the text provided for Week 14 on pp. 26–27.

Day 2 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Complete Step One on page 26.

Day 3 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Complete Step Two on page 26.

Day 4 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Complete Step Three on page 26 by filling in the outline on page 27.

Day 5 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Complete Step Four on page 27.
☐ Review the material given for this week’s lesson.
☐ Ask a parent to review the paragraphs to ensure they contain the important facts and details about the topic.
Week 15: Interesting Introductions and Connected Closings

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Read the text provided for Week 15 on pp. 28–30.

Day 2 | Date: _________________________________

Day 3 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Write the introduction paragraph using the outline on page 29.

Day 4 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Write the closing paragraph using the outline on page 29.
☐ Have a parent check your paragraphs using the rubric on page 30.

Day 5 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Review the material given for this week’s lesson.
☐ Update the essay, checked by a parent, in order to improve your grade.
Week 16: Turning Essays into Speeches

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _________________________________

☐ Read the text provided for Week 16 on pp. 30–32.
☐ Review Lessons 13–16.

Day 2 | Date: _________________________________

☐ Fill in the Speech Outline on page 31 using the essay from last week.
☐ Review Lessons 13–16.

Day 3 | Date: _________________________________

☐ Condense the outline into note cards that you can use as cues while giving your speech using the guidelines on page 32.
☐ Review Lessons 13–16.

Day 4 | Date: _________________________________

☐ Present your speech to family and friends.
☐ Have a parent check your speech by using the rubric on page 32.
☐ Review Lessons 13–16.

Day 5 | Date: _________________________________

☐ Take the Unit Four Essay & Speeches Quiz on page 33.
☐ Have a parent check your answers and grade your quiz.
Week 17: Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Read the text provided for Week 17 on pp. 34–35.

Day 2 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Read two to three news articles and highlight the facts while using the guidelines on page 35.

Day 3 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Read two to three news articles and highlight the facts while using the guidelines on page 35.

Day 4 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Read one to two news articles and highlight the facts while using the guidelines on page 35.

Day 5 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Review the material given for this week's lesson.
☐ Have a parent review the facts of the article with you and discuss categorization.
Week 18: Breaking Traditional Writing Rules

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Week 19: Importance of Planning

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: ______________________________________

☐ Read the text provided for Week 19 on pp. 39–40.

Day 2 | Date: ______________________________________


Day 3 | Date: ______________________________________

☐ Begin writing the news report using the guidelines on page 39.

Day 4 | Date: ______________________________________

☐ Finish writing the news report using the guidelines on page 39.

☐ Have a parent check your article using the rubric on page 40.

Day 5 | Date: ______________________________________

☐ Review the material given for this week's lesson.

☐ Update the news report that a parent checked in order to improve your grade.
Week 20: Create a Newspaper

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: ________________________________

☐ Read the text provided for Week 20 on page 41.

Day 2 | Date: ________________________________

☐ Begin working on the newspaper project using the guidelines on page 41.

Day 3 | Date: ________________________________

☐ Continue working on the newspaper project using the guidelines on page 41.

Day 4 | Date: ________________________________

☐ Finish up the newspaper project using the guidelines on page 41.

Day 5 | Date: ________________________________

☐ Take the Unit Five Journalism Review Quiz on page 42.
☐ Have a parent check your answers and grade your quiz.
Week 21: What Is Sensory Poetry?

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: ____________________________________
☐ Read the text provided for Week 21 on pp. 43–44.

Day 2 | Date: ____________________________
☐ Fill in the Sensory Poems Worksheet on page 44.

Day 3 | Date: ____________________________
☐ Write the first sensory poem using the outline on page 44.

Day 4 | Date: ____________________________
☐ Write the second sensory poem using the outline on page 44.

Day 5 | Date: ____________________________
☐ Write the third sensory poem using the outline on page 44.
Week 22: Sensory Words

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _________________________________

☐ Read the text provided for Week 22 on page 45.

Day 2 | Date: _________________________________

☐ Create your own list of sensory words to use in poetry or writing. Try to think of twenty-five words for each of the following categories: sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste. Keep the list in your language arts journal for future reference.

Day 3 | Date: _________________________________

☐ Fill in the Sensory Poem Outline on page 45.

Day 4 | Date: _________________________________

☐ Write a sensory poem using the outline on page 45.
☐ Have a parent check your poem using the rubric on page 45.

Day 5 | Date: _________________________________

☐ Review the material given for this week’s lesson.
☐ Update the sensory poem that a parent checked in order to improve your grade.
### Week 23: Word Connotation

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<td>☐ Read the text provided for Week 23 on page 46.</td>
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<td>☐ Review a poem that you have already written in this unit. Revise it using sensory words and connotations to evoke strong feelings. Feel free to use a thesaurus.</td>
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<td>☐ Have a parent check your poem using the rubric on page 46.</td>
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|        | Day 2 | Date: _________________________________ |
|        | ☐ Review a poem you’ve already written in this unit. Revise it using sensory words and connotations to evoke strong feelings. Feel free to use a thesaurus. |
|        | ☐ Have a parent check your poem using the rubric on page 46. |

|        | Day 3 | Date: _________________________________ |
|        | ☐ Review a poem you’ve already written in this unit. Revise it using sensory words and connotations to evoke strong feelings. Feel free to use a thesaurus. |
|        | ☐ Have a parent check your poem using the rubric on page 46. |

|        | Day 4 | Date: _________________________________ |
|        | ☐ Review a poem you’ve already written in this unit. Revise it using sensory words and connotations to evoke strong feelings. Feel free to use a thesaurus. |
|        | ☐ Have a parent check your poem using the rubric on page 46. |

|        | Day 5 | Date: _________________________________ |
|        | ☐ Review the material given for this week's lesson. |
|        | ☐ Update the poems that a parent checked in order to improve your grade. |
Week 24: Wrap-Up Sensory Poetry Project

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Read the text provided for Week 24 on page 47.
☐ Write a sensory poem about an animal.

Day 2 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Write a sensory poem about the weather.

Day 3 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Write a sensory poem about a season.

Day 4 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Write a sensory poem that is humorous.

Day 5 | Date: _________________________________
☐ Take the Unit Six Sensory Poetry Quiz on page 48.
☐ Have a parent check your answers and grade your quiz.