



SWIM Five-Step Sequence Plan: Informative & Explanatory Writing

The purpose of the SWIM Sequence plans used with SWIM formative assessment tables is to guide instruction of the SWIM Sequence. Plans are differentiated depending on the writing level and grade band of the student. SWIM Sequence plans are comprised of four sections: 1) SWIM Learning Map assignment, 2) evidence-based practices, 3) Universal Design for Learning (UDL) aligned instructional materials and strategies, and 4) SWIM Sequence steps.

Section I: SWIM Learning Map Assignment

SWIM Learning Map Neighborhood	Grade Band	Writing Level
Research to Build and Present Knowledge	K–2	Transitional

SWIM Learning Map Neighborhood	Grade Band	Writing Level
Informative and Explanatory Writing	K–2	Transitional

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Section II: Evidence-Based Practices

Title	Description
Formative Assessment	Formative assessment is a planned, ongoing process used by all students and teachers during learning and teaching to elicit and use evidence of student learning to improve student understanding of intended disciplinary learning outcomes and support students to become self-directed learners (CCSSO 2021).
Vocabulary	Core and fringe vocabulary. Core vocabulary is a term for a relatively small set of words that are used most frequently in oral and written language. Fringe vocabulary is used less frequently and are more specific to a subject, or individual (zoo, school principal, etc.).
Text Comprehension Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared reading is the interaction between an adult and a student or group of students while they read a book together. During shared reading, the goal is for the student or students to eventually direct the interaction by labeling pictures, asking questions, making comments, and directing the way that the adult navigates through the pages in the book. • Shared dialogic reading involves an adult and child having a dialogue around the text they are reading. During dialogic reading, the adult asks questions to help the child explore the text and story components, increase their vocabulary, and talk about the text. • Anchor-Read-Apply is an instructional approach that supports students in learning how to activate background knowledge based on prior experience or build new background knowledge that they can connect to information contained in or related to the text.
Graphic Organizers	A visual learning tool to help students organize their ideas, clarify or simplify complex concepts, help with problem-solving or decision-making, or be used to plan research or brainstorm ideas.
Self-Regulation Strategies	Self-regulated strategy development (SRSD) is an instructional approach designed to help students learn, use, and adopt the strategies used by skilled writers. It is an approach that adds the element of self-regulation to strategy instruction for writing. It encourages students to monitor, evaluate, and revise their writing, which in turn reinforces self-regulation skills and independent learning (TEAL Center).

SWIM Formative Assessment Process

Formative assessment is a process that is both planned and ongoing for each lesson. Planning requires the development of specific questions and tasks within each of the SWIM sequence steps that best meet the range of learning needs of students. Formative assessment that is ongoing is enacted while learning is occurring, not after the learning takes place (CCSSO 2023). The following strategies are provided to support the teaching and learning process between students and teachers during SWIM.

Before Each Lesson

- All students have a personal communication system with core and robust vocabulary.
- All students have access to a personalized writing tool (alternative pencil or communication device) that includes all 26 letters of the alphabet.
- SWIM learning goals and student success criteria are modeled and reviewed by students.
- Students review and communicate learning goals and success criteria.

During Each Lesson

- Use wait time so that students have the time to make comments or answer questions. Collect student comments or answers as evidence of student learning.
- Engage students by using UDL strategies and creating opportunities for extended conversations.
- Provide descriptive feedback to students that reflect the student learning goals and student success criteria.

After Each Lesson

- Support students self-assess on how and what they learned.
- Check for student understanding on learning goals by reviewing success criteria.
- Provide descriptive feedback and extend the thinking of your students.

Section III: UDL (Universal Design for Learning) Aligned Instructional Materials & Strategies

The following example includes instructional materials and strategies that can support educators implement UDL, and a framework to improve and optimize teaching and learning within the five steps of the SWIM Sequence.

Engagement Strategies for Recruiting Interest/Sustaining Effort and Persistence/Self-Regulation	SWIM Sequence Steps
<u>Topic choices</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Familiar shared reading text <input type="checkbox"/> Experience <input type="checkbox"/> Experience Book <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Experience <input type="checkbox"/> Events <input type="checkbox"/> Family Members <input type="checkbox"/> Friends <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Steps 1 and 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Choice <input type="checkbox"/> Print Rich Environment	Steps 1–5

Representation Strategies for Perception/Receptive Language/Comprehension	SWIM Sequence Steps
<u>Varied organization strategies for information to guide information processing and multimedia usage</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Symbols or drawings <input type="checkbox"/> Photographs of school related topics, experiences, familiar people, and places <input type="checkbox"/> Remnants from personal experiences <input type="checkbox"/> Familiar subjects <input type="checkbox"/> Symbols/objects/illustrations/pictures and props related to shared reading text or experience. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Steps 1–5
<u>Text comprehension strategies to learn, communicate, and collect information about the topic.</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Shared Reading	Step 2
<u>Vocabulary</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Personal <input type="checkbox"/> Core	Steps 1–5

Action and Expression Strategies for Physical Action/Expressive Communication with Fluency	SWIM Sequence Steps
<u>Communication</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Modal Communication <input type="checkbox"/> Individual student communication devices <input type="checkbox"/> Classroom communication displays	Steps 1–3
<u>Writing Tools</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Pen or pencil <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate keyboard <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate pencil <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Steps 4 and 5

Section IV: SWIM Sequence Steps

Step 1: Choose a Topic and Purpose of Writing

Choose a topic.

Brainstorm ideas, think about categories of topics, and narrow down the topic.

Questioning Strategies	Tasks and Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are things you know about?• Who are the important people in your life?• What things are important to you?• Where do you like to go?• What do you like to do?• What should we write about?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use think alouds to brainstorm ideas to choose a topic.• Help students think about different categories of things to write about (e.g., favorite places to visit, friends).• Make a list of topics and read them together.• Narrow down the topic.

□ Activate background knowledge about the topic.

Learn the connections between prior experience and the topic.

Questioning Strategies	Tasks and Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What can you tell me?• What do you know about this?• When did you see this?• When did you do it?• Did you like it?• Did you not like it?• What does it look, sound, taste, or feel like?• What new words can we use?• How is it the same?• How is it different?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use think alouds to support students recall what they know about the topic by using details to describe their experiences, people, places, things, or events.• Scribe student reflections within a graphic organizer or other outline strategy (e.g., K—what I know about the topic of KWHL chart).

□ Determine the purpose and audience for writing.

Understand the purpose of writing is to share an opinion.

Questioning Strategies	Tasks and Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What can you say about the topic?• Do you want to say about, describe, or explain about the topic?• Who would want to read our writing?• What do they know about the topic?• What is their opinion about the topic?• What will they learn from our writing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use think alouds to help students know they are writing to others to share their opinion.• Generate a list of potential audiences.• Choose the audience that best fits the writing topic.

Step 2: Learn about the Topic

□ Explore topic resources.

Explore sources of information on the topic through experiences, texts, video, photographs, illustrations, or pictures.

Questioning Strategies	Tasks and Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What do you want to learn about the topic?• What do we have that can help us learn about the topic?• Where can we find information about the topic?• What can we say about the topic?• What are some things we have learned about the topic?• Does this go with our topic?• What can we use to gather information about the topic?• What books or videos give information about the topic?• What can we write from the book that will help us remember things about our topic?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scribe student responses to questions in a graphic organizer or other outline strategy (e.g., W—what I want to learn about the topic within a KWHL chart).• Use think alouds to help students know how to gather information from sources.• Scribe student responses into a graphic organizer or other outline strategy (e.g., H—how will I learn about the topic within a KWHL chart).

□ **Gather information about the topic.**

Use topic resources to meet the purpose of writing.

Questioning Strategies	Tasks and Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What can we say about the topic?• What are some things we have learned about the topic?• Can we look at our book?• What is this?• What is in the pictures/drawings?• Who is in the pictures/drawings?• Have we answered your questions about the topic?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use shared or shared dialogic reading or anchor read apply text comprehension strategies to read and gather facts and details about the topic.• Use think alouds to help students gather information about the topic that supports their opinion.• Scribe information into a graphic organizer or other outline strategy (e.g., L—what I’ve learned about the topic within a KWHL chart).• Note:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Read the text for multiple purposes (e.g., preview-picture walk, make predictions, preview key vocabulary, explore text structure).○ Reread the book several times and engage in word or letter work after many readings of the text.○ While reading the book, model some of the pages, pointing with your finger from left to right, and engage student in print referencing (concepts of print, word meaning, letters and words)

Elaborate on the purpose of the text.

Develop ideas by providing supporting details.

Questioning Strategies	Tasks and Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What more can we learn and tell others about the topic?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage students to learn more about the topic.• If needed, have students revisit the informational sources to gather more information.• Scribe additional facts and details within the graphic organizer or outline strategy.

Step 3: Plan for Writing

□ **Select strategies for translating communication into writing.**

Choose student ideas and words that most accurately convey what was learned about the topic.

Questioning Strategies	Tasks and Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What can we say about our topic?• What should we include in our writing?• What should we leave out of our writing?• How can we describe these things?• Can we draw or find a picture about our topic?• What words can we use to tell what we've learned?• What words should we use?• Are there special words about the topic?• Do we know the meaning of the words we are writing?• What does this phrase tell us about the topic?• Are there certain words we need to include?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the graphic organizer or outline strategy used in Steps 1 and 2.• Provide students with resources to draw or provide illustrations or pictures they can include in their writing to express their ideas and plan for writing.• Use think alouds and modeling to<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ select words, phrases, pictures, or illustrations that best communicate their ideas about the topic○ decide what content will be included, what vocabulary words will be used in writing, the conventions of writing, and the order of the content to meet the purpose of writing

□ **Set goals to meet the purpose of writing.**

Identify the text structure and purpose for writing.

Questioning Strategies	Tasks and Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is our reason for writing?• What are we telling about our topic?• What are we explaining about our topic?• What way can we tell or explain about the topic?• What does writing look like in our book?• What is this (a picture or a word)?• How do we end our writing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review texts used to gather information about the topic as example mentor texts.• Discuss with the student what elements of writing in the text were good and label what made it so (e.g., word choice, illustrations, text structure).• Support students to set goals for writing based on the purpose of writing, text structure, and student learning goals.

□ **Set up tools for writing.**

Use a variety of writing tools, references, or technologies to create an outline of the text for the purpose of writing.

Questioning Strategies	Tasks and Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How will we meet our writing goals?• What is the best way for us to organize our ideas?• What will our writing look like?• How can we learn to write our sentences?• What can we use to organize our writing?• What order should we put our sentences in?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use think alouds to<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ select a graphic organizer or other writing tool aligned to the purpose of writing○ review how to organize the goal-related information appropriately within it (e.g., sentence frame).○ model what content will be included and what vocabulary words and conventions of writing will be used.• Use of classroom or personal word wall• Provide students with resources to draw or provide illustrations or pictures they can include in their writing to express their ideas and plan for writing.

□ **Set goals for the amount and quality of information in the text.**

Review a writing checklist for text production.

Questioning Strategies	Tasks and Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we start our writing? • Do we know the sounds of the letters in the words we want to write? • What are words made of? • What sounds do we hear when we spell our words? • How will we spell our words? • How do we write letters into words? • Which way do the letters go? • Which are words? • Which are pictures? • Do we know how words go together to make a sentence? • How do we write our words into sentences? • How do we write our sentences so that we are following the rules of writing? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a writing checklist at the appropriate level of writing conventions that are aligned to purpose of writing and student learning goals. • Use think-alouds and writing examples to model how to use the checklist during Step 4. • Support students' literacy learning in the areas of phonological and orthographic awareness, concepts of print, letter and word learning, and spelling strategies. • Model how to spell words by sounding them out or using word knowledge. • Model varied sentence structures (e.g., simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex) to plan for writing.

Step 4: Write with a Purpose

□ Translate thoughts and ideas into written communication.

Turn ideas into writing. Use a variety of writing tools, stay on topic, write using an appropriate level of writing mechanics and grammar, and self-correct to improve text.

Questioning Strategies	Tasks and Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can you tell me about your writing?• What letters, words, or parts of words did we write?• What sounds do we hear?• Do the written letters have the same sounds?• What words did we write?• Did we always write about the topic or something else?• Do we know when we are not following the rules of writing?• Did we find words that needed to be fixed?• Did we fix them?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review writing tools or technologies used in Step 3 and discuss how they'll be used to write about the topic.• Use think alouds during shared interactive writing to create a common text together.• Draw attention to word construction through hearing and writing the sounds and linking known words to new words.• Discuss how to write what students want to say.• Read the writing product together with the student and correct mistakes while writing.

Step 5: Review and Evaluate for Purpose

Read the writing product together and evaluate how the purpose was met.

Review what was written and decide if there is more to communicate about the topic.

Questioning Strategies	Tasks and Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Did we write what we wanted to say?• Will our readers understand what we want to say?• Can our writing be read by others?• Can we say it better?• Do we need to say more?• Did we follow the rules of writing?• Do we need to correct our writing?• How can we share our writing with others?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss student learning goals and success criteria with students.• Read the writing together and use the review strategy.• Attribute meaning to the written product.• Provide descriptive feedback on clarity and cohesiveness, grammar, and mechanics.• Determine if the text matches the purpose and goals of the writing set in Step 3.• If additional information is needed, return to Steps 2–4 to further develop the written product.