

Glossary of Terms

Expository: Writing that provides information or opinion, explains or defines a concept, describes a process, amuses, or persuades with arguments. Organization is based on “clumping” related information or ideas. Describing a process is an exception and is organized in a linear progression.

Find more about expository writing in *Teaching the Youngest Writers*, and in the CraftPlus® program Module 4, “Organizing Expository Writing.”

Genre: A category of writing marked by a distinctive purpose, style, form, or content. Some examples of genres are narrative, descriptive, informative, comparative, and persuasive, as well as business letters, reviews, and essays.

Personal Narrative: A true story about one’s own experience or an observed experience. Organization is chronological (time passes).

Find out more about personal narrative in *Teaching the Youngest Writers*, Chapter 14 and on the CraftPlus® program Module 3, “Organizing Writing and Two Kinds of Narrative.”

Revision: Part of the writing process where changes are made to a piece of writing to improve its clarity, style, and effectiveness.

Find more about revision in *Teaching the Youngest Writers*, Chapter 8 and on CraftPlus® program Module 9, “Revision.”

Strong Verbs: Any action word that can be shown or acted out. If you can perform it, it is a strong verb. Some examples might be “sing,” “dance,” “skip,” “saunter,” and “ponder”.

Find more about strong verbs in *Teaching the Youngest Writers*, pp. 69, 87-90 and CraftPlus® program Module 2, “How to Teach a Writing-Craft Skill.”

Target Skill: A selected writing-craft skill that is taught through modeling, analysis, discovery, and generalization. The teacher models the skill for the students. The students are asked to focus on, learn, practice the skill, and then use it in their own writing.

Find out more about teaching Target Skill lessons in CraftPlus® program Module 2, “How to Teach a Writing-Craft Skill,” and in *Models for Teaching Writing-Craft Target Skills*.

Voice: The tone of a written piece that readers perceive. It is determined by such things as the writer’s attitude toward the topic and audience, choice of words and syntax, amount and type of details, the imagery and emotions evoked, and the humor or other literary devices employed