

NAPLAN 16

Newsletter: November 2016

To keep teachers informed, please post this newsletter on staff noticeboards.

Marking

Recruitment workshops for the NAPLAN writing test marking pool will be offered between 20 February and 22 March.

These workshops are offered free of charge to teachers who are considering marking. If you think you might like to be a marker but are unsure whether it is for you, consider attending a recruitment workshop to see just what is involved.

You will need to register as a marker through the Marker Application Online website: <https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/MAO/login.jsp>.

Workshops

Principles of good writing

Sharon Crone from the NAPLAN team has conducted workshops on the teaching of writing throughout 2016, and will continue to offer this workshop in Semester 1, 2017.

Workshop dates and locations will be advertised on the QCAA website:

<https://events.qcaa.qld.edu.au/Catalogue.aspx?y=2>.



Presented by Sharon Crone

Two types of writing

Two types of writing are essential for a student to develop into a successful and confident writer.

The first is **daily composed paragraph writing** in response to a simple question.

Before students approach writing in a genre, they should be able to compose clear, factual paragraphs on a range of topics. All that is required is that each paragraph has a **clear central idea**.

Prompt questions can be:

- explanatory:
How do you detect a liar?
How do you best train for a particular sport?
- descriptive:
Describe what the dark feels like.
- reflective:
What incident do you remember vividly from your childhood?
- opinionative:
Is the villain in the play we are studying wicked or misled?

The following outlines a narrative practice preparation.

Write a paragraph that has dialogue between two characters, and reveals different personalities. Transform this factual script into a narrative by adding lots of circumstances.

Paragraph writing is an opportunity to develop vocabulary skills. Students have to be encouraged to use a more precise and imaginative range of words to express their ideas.

The second type of writing students need experience in is **workshopping their writing**, so that they have time and space to elaborate on their ideas and to craft their writing more effectively.

However, they can't do this second type of writing until they have experience in the first.

The 'p' words: *planning* and *patterns*

When responding to on-demand writing tasks like a NAPLAN writing test, students need a clear road map of where they are going with their story. Inability to finish the task may impact significantly on the criteria of ideas, text structure and cohesion.

The following outlines an approach to a narrative task. A similar process could be applied to a persuasive text, with some obvious modifications required.

The bare bones of a 5-minute plan are:

1. Choose a **focus** for the plot: character, relationship, task or surprise.
2. Choose a **problem** for your character and think about how this problem will get worse (or more complicated) before it gets better or gets resolved.
3. Choose a **pattern** which suits your story (a pattern of plot, a pattern of incidents, a pattern of repeated dialogue, a pattern in relationships, a pattern in imagery) as this will hold your story together and intrigue the reader.
4. Choose a **voice** for yourself: humorous, subversive or mocking, sincere, regretful, passionate or serious. (Good writers have a distinctive voice.)

If students in Queensland find their voice, it will be a win for NAPLAN results, but more importantly (if they don't already), they will love listening to stories and writing them.

NAPLAN online

Public demonstration site

A public demonstration site for NAPLAN online is now available. Students, teachers and parents can take demonstration tests using the national online assessment platform. The site will provide examples of new elements associated with online testing, such as drag-and-drop and interactive navigation.

A series of mini-tests will be available for all NAPLAN years: 3, 5, 7 and 9. Users are

encouraged to first check that the demonstration tests work with their devices and browsers.

Details including technical requirements, FAQs and site access is available at:

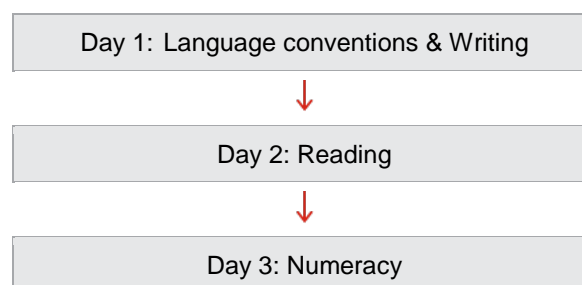
www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online/naplan-online-public-demonstration-site.

NAPLAN test dates

Paper-based test

Year	NAPLAN test period
2017	09–11 May
2018	15–17 May
2019	14–16 May
2020	12–14 May

The usual testing program and sequence will apply:



Online test

For 2017, the NAPLAN Online test window will span 9–19 May. Test program for online delivery must follow this sequence:

