

Wordsmith Apprentice Scope and Sequence

Wordsmith Apprentice was created with two basic purposes in mind:

- 1) To supplement and apply grammatical principles. Many students learn punctuation, parts of speech, and basic sentence structure as workbook "exercises" but don't necessarily see the relevance to actual writing. Every grammatical principle taught in *Wordsmith Apprentice* will be applied to several unusual exercises and at least one writing project, reinforcing the idea that there's a reason we learn this stuff!
- 2) To introduce the student to several types and purposes of writing, in an imaginative way that will create enthusiasm for the subject. The newspaper theme provides a practical, relevant format for exploring the many ways we use the written word.

PART ONE: NOUNS, VERBS AND SENTENCES

Nouns

Principles taught: how to recognize nouns by "noun markers" (articles); the difference between proper and common nouns; the importance of specific nouns over general ones.

Projects: "For sale" ads, cinquain and other types of "form" poetry

Verbs

Principles taught: the difference between action, helping and linking verbs; preferring vivid actions verbs

Projects: "Help wanted" ads, action poetry, writing definitions

Sentence structure

Principles taught: the two basic sentence forms; subject and predicate; compounding; the four sentence types

Projects: picture captions; invitations; letters; newspaper headlines

PART TWO: MODIFIERS

Adjectives and adverbs

Principles taught: how to recognize adjectives and adverbs and how they are used

Projects: games and word puzzles; diamante poems

Prepositions

Principles taught: what prepositions are and how they are used

Projects: expanded picture captions, display ads, real-estate ads, travel writing, book reviews

PART THREE: ORGANIZING AND REPORTING

Paragraphs

Principles taught: recognizing topic sentences and sentences that don't belong; good organization

Projects: recipe writing, household hints, writing synopses for movies and TV shows, organizing a contest

Reporting

Principles taught: the five "W's" (who, what, when, where, why), plus "how"

Projects: fictional and actual news stories

Dialogue

Principles taught: what dialogue is and how it is represented on paper

Projects: comic strips

Introductory sentences and paragraphs

Principles taught: what makes an interesting "hook"

Projects: writing original articles from pictures; interviews

Fact and Opinion

Principles taught: the difference between reporting and opining; steps to writing an opinion piece

Project: editorials