

Lesson Skill: Deciding the mode

Strand Writing

SOL 6.7
7.7
8.7

Materials

- None

Lesson

1. Remind students that they may respond to an SOL writing prompt in an expository or persuasive mode; as long as a response is related to the prompt, it will be scored.
2. Put a practice writing prompt on the board, such as “Your cousin is moving to your town. Write a letter explaining why your town is such a wonderful place to live.”
3. Model planning to respond to the prompt, leading students through a discussion of how to decide the mode.
4. Put student responses to the above prompt on the board in a table such as the following:

Mode	Form of response	First sentence
Expository	An essay about the importance of having friends as you grow up	The formula for success lists several necessary ingredients: intelligence, courage, honesty, hard work, and flexibility. The word <i>friendship</i> is missing from this list.
Persuasive	An editorial in the school newspaper	Ashton Miles is an athlete, and he is a boy who needs a friend. You could be that friend. Ashton is on the Special Olympics track team, which has a meet this Saturday in Roanoke.

5. Assign students to cooperative learning groups, and ask groups to brainstorm ways to respond to this released SOL test prompt: “You have been asked to plan an after-school program for your school. Thinking about activities that students might enjoy, write about this after-school program.”
6. Allow groups to share their ideas and suggestions with the entire class.
7. Assign students to respond to the prompt in one of the ways suggested during the discussion, either during class or outside of class as a homework assignment.

Strategies for Differentiation

- Allow class to brainstorm possible responses for after-school program prompt. Arrange students in small groups based upon common ideas.

- Provide with an empty table (digitally or on chart paper) as a form for generating responses to after school program prompt.
- Provide groups with pre-written forms of responses and first sentences. Allow them to categorize the responses and sentences based upon the mode and glue them onto the chart or copy and paste them onto the electronic form.
- Have students respond to the prompt in class, working collaboratively or individually.