Writing: Lesson 23

Today the students will practice planning for informative/explanatory prompts in response to texts they read.

The following passages will be used in this lesson:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excerpt from the “I Have a Dream” Speech</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Celebrating His Legacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In the previous section of this curriculum, students learned how to plan for expository prompts using the IRC outline. Remind students that expository, explanatory and informative all mean the same thing—to explain or give information. They will now be using an ITC outline to plan, but instead of planning for random prompts they will be planning for prompts in response to text that they have just read.

Explain to students that for the new writing test they will be given 2-4 passages to read that all have a similar topic/theme. After reading the text, they will be given a prompt that directs them to write something about what they just read. That is when they will need to plan their essay and then write a 5 paragraph essay with the same structure they learned in the previous section.

Here are a couple of examples to explain to the students:

- Let’s say you just read three passages on helping out in your community. You are then directed to write to the following prompt: _Think about how you can make a difference in your community. Using information from the text, explain what work you would do and tell how this work would make a difference in your community._

- Another example is if you were given two passages about different animal habitats. After reading the passages you were given the following prompt: _Write to inform your reader about protecting animal habitats in a community._

For both examples your prompt is based on what you just read. Instead of just writing about your favorite animal or special person in your life, you will be writing about information you are given in text. When planning, you will need to come up with your 3 topics (T1, T2, and T3) based on the text.

Read all three passages aloud to the class (or you can read one aloud and have students independently read the others)

1. Write this prompt on the board: 
   _Martin Luther King Jr. was an inspirational civil rights leader. Think about what you have learned about Martin Luther King Jr. Use information from the passages to explain what you learned about Martin Luther King Jr._

2. Using the ITC outline, model planning for this prompt using the outline below

   **When planning for this, remind students that they are not coming up with 3 reasons about why they like Martin Luther King Jr. They are simply informing/explaining to the reader 3 things about Martin Luther King Jr. They can pick any 3 things they want from the passages, but they have to make sure they are BIG (broad) things that they can write a lot about.
When picking 3 topics, they need to put a box around the information and then label and underline their “A” and “B”.

*see example below

In the example above, I chose “life” to be my topic for T1. So I put a box around all of the information about “his life.” Then I underlined my two details about his life and labeled them as “A” and “B.”

**Example Planning**

**I Martin Luther King Jr.**

T1 Life a. early life  

b. assassination

T2 Civil Rights a. I have a dream speech  

b. making a difference

T3 Legacy a. national holiday  

b. memorial

C Martin Luther King Jr.

Some things to discuss while writing this outline (think aloud as you write this):

-My 3 topics are big topics that I can write a lot about. These are all main topics that are discussed in the passages and I can support them with evidence from ALL THREE passages (make sure you use information from all of the passages in your essay!)

-My A’s and B’s are details/examples to further discuss my 3 topics
The following passages will be used in the next part of this lesson:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Bill of Rights</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The U.S. Constitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Declaration of Independence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Read all 3 passages
4. Write this prompt on the board:
   *The Founding Documents are the documents that helped shape the United States. Think about what you have learned about the most important documents in American history. Use information from the passages to inform the reader about the Founding Documents.*
5. Using the ITC outline, have students plan for this prompt (5-10 minutes)
6. After they have planned, share planning ideas and compile list of examples and non-examples on the board. Discuss what some good topics are (as well as ones that will not work) and make sure their A and B’s make sense.

**Example Planning**

I Founding Documents

T1 Declaration of Independence       a. creation       b. sections
T2 Bill of Rights                   a. amendments 1-5    b. amendments 6-10
T3 U.S. Constitution                a. Constitutional Convention  b. articles

C Founding Documents

7. Review today’s objective – planning for informative/explanatory prompt. Explain that we are still using the ITC outline, we are just choosing 3 topics based on the text we are provided.
Directions: Plan for the following prompt

*Martin Luther King Jr. was an inspirational civil rights leader. Think about what you have learned about Martin Luther King Jr. Use information from the passages to explain what you learned about Martin Luther King Jr.*

I  _________________________

T1  ________________________  a. __________
    b. __________

T2  ________________________  a. __________
    b. __________

T3  ________________________  a. __________
    b. __________

C  ___________________________
Directions: Plan for the following prompt

*The Founding Documents are the documents that helped shape the United States. Think about what you have learned about the most important documents in American history. Use information from the passages to inform the reader about the Founding Documents.*

I ___________________________

T1 ________________________ a. ___________
   b. ___________

T2 ________________________ a. ___________
   b. ___________

T3 ________________________ a. ___________
   b. ___________

C ___________________________
By summer of 1776, the Thirteen Colonies and Great Britain had been at war for more than a year. The relationship between the colonies and the mother country had been worsening since 1763. The British government, called Parliament, had been taxing the colonies. Britain wanted revenue from the colonies. Many colonists believed that Parliament had no right to impose taxes upon them. The colonists found it unfair that they had no representative in Parliament to argue their side. They yelled “no taxation without representation!”

In June of 1776, Congress debated independence for four days. Finally, a committee was formed to write a formal declaration of independence from Britain. The committee was made up of five men: John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Robert R. Livingston of New York, and Thomas Jefferson of Virginia. The Committee of Five decided that Jefferson should write the declaration.

On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress voted to declare independence from England. For two days, Congress carefully edited Jefferson's original document. They shortened it, removed unnecessary wording, and improved sentence structure. On July 4, 1776 the Declaration of Independence was adopted. It was signed by John Hancock, the President of the Continental Congress, that day. The rest of the Congress signed two months later.

The declaration contained 3 sections: a general statement and the purpose of government, a list of complaints against the British King, and the declaration of independence from England. The Declaration of Independence is considered by many to the foundation of American freedom. The first sentence of the Preamble is considered to be one of the best known sentences in the English language. It states, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” The Declaration of Independence has been quoted by great Americans such as Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jr. who have referenced it as a beacon of hope for all people everywhere.

**“The Declaration of Independence” written for educational purposes.**

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1 Revenue-income, earnings or money
2 Preamble-the introduction of a document
The Bill of Rights (1791) 1060

5 The Bill of Rights, written by James Madison, includes the first ten amendments of the U.S. Constitution. Several states wanted protection for individual liberties specifically stated in the Constitution. The Bill of Rights is a list of limits on government power so the country would never be under the rule of another king with ultimate power. For example, the Founders felt that it was a natural right of individuals to speak and worship freely. This then became protected by the First Amendment.

6 The first five amendments are extremely important and protect individual rights that all Americans deserved to have. The First Amendment protects the right of people to have freedom of religion, freedom of speech, press, assembly, and petition. The Second Amendment protects the right to keep and bear arms, or guns, in order to maintain an army. The Third Amendment prevents soldiers from staying at someone’s private home without their permission. The Fourth Amendment protects the freedom from unreasonable searches of you or your house. The Fifth Amendment gives you certain legal rights.

7 The last five amendments in the Bill of Rights protect various legal rights. The Sixth Amendment protects the rights of people accused of a crime, such as the right to a speedy trial. The Seventh Amendment explains that all trials can have a jury. The Eighth Amendment also protects the rights of people accused of a crime, such as the right not to have cruel or unusual punishment. The Ninth Amendment states that the American people have rights other than just the rights listed in the Constitution. Last but not least, the Tenth Amendment gives the power not mentioned in the Constitution to the people or the states.

“The Bill of Rights” written for educational purposes.
Constitutional Convention

8 The Constitution was written in the summer of 1787 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by delegates from 12 states, in order to replace the Articles of Confederation with a new form of government. There was a need for a new Constitution in 1787 because there were problems with the original constitution, called the Articles of Confederation. Each state legislature was invited to attend a convention in Philadelphia to discuss changes to the Articles. In May of that year, delegates from 12 of the 13 states (Rhode Island sent no representatives) convened in Philadelphia to begin the work of redesigning government and drafting a new Constitution for the United States.

9 The main goal of the Constitutional Convention was to create a government with a balance of power. The government needed to have enough power to act on a national level without putting Americans’ rights at risk. One way that this was accomplished was to separate the power of government. The powers of government were separated into three branches. Each of the three branches had checks and balances on those powers. That means each branch of government could not ever gain superiority or be powerful enough to take over like the King of England.

10 The president of the Constitutional Convention was George Washington. James Madison is also known as the “Father of the Constitution” because of his help with the Constitution. In September of 1787, it was sent to the states for ratification. Nine of the thirteen states would have to approve the new Constitution to become effective for those ratifying states. Finally, a debate began among the states over ratification. Those who argued that the Constitution should be approved were called Federalists; those who argued against it were called Anti-Federalists. The debate went on for months. In June of 1788, nine states had ratified the Constitution. The rest of the states ratified the Constitution once the Bill of Rights was added.

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3 a person elected to represent others
4 approval
Preamble to the Constitution

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Articles of the Constitution

11 The U.S. Constitution consists of a preamble, or introduction, seven articles and a signed closing endorsement. Article One describes Congress, the legislative branch of the federal government. Congress consists of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The article explains elections for these positions and the qualifications for members of each body. Article one also outlines the powers given to the legislature.

12 Article Two describes the office of the President of the United States. The President is head of the executive branch of the federal government. Article Two describes the office, qualifications and duties of the President of the United States and the Vice President. It also explains situations which call for the removal of the president. Article Three describes the court system of the United States, or the judicial branch. This includes the Supreme Court. The article describes the kinds of cases the court takes. Article Four outlines the relations among the states and between each state and the federal government.

13 Article Five outlines the process for amending the Constitution. Article Six establishes the Constitution to be the supreme law of the land. It requires that all federal and state legislators, officers, and judges take oaths to support the Constitution. The states' constitutions and laws should not conflict with the laws of the U.S. Constitution. Article Seven describes the process for establishing the proposed new frame of government.

14 The Signing of the United States Constitution occurred on September 17, 1787 when 39 delegates to the Constitutional Convention endorsed the constitution created during the convention. In addition to signatures the closing endorsement included a brief declaration that the delegates' work has been successfully completed and that those whose signatures appear on it agree with the final document.

“The United States Constitution” written for educational purposes.

5 Making changes

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Excerpt from Martin Luther King’s I Have a Dream Speech

1 Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity.

2 But there is something that I must say to my people, who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice: In the process of gaining our rightful place, we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again, we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force.

3 We cannot walk alone.

4 And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead.

5 We cannot turn back.

6 Let us not wallow in the valley of despair, I say to you today, my friends.

7 And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

8 I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

9 I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.
10 I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

11 I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

12 I have a dream today!

13 I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of "interposition" and "nullification" -- one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

14 I have a dream today!

15 I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together."

16 This is our hope, and this is the faith that I go back to the South with.

17 With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

18 And this will be the day -- this will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning:

19 My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the Pilgrim's pride, from every mountaineer, let freedom ring!

20 And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true.

21 And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual:

22 Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!
National Holiday

23 Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a national holiday marking the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year, which is around King's birthday, January 15. Only two other figures have national holidays in the U.S. honoring them: George Washington and Christopher Columbus.

24 Honoring Martin Luther King Jr. with a national holiday wasn’t easy. In fact, it took 15 years to create the holiday. The campaign for a federal holiday in King's honor began soon after his assassination in 1968. President Ronald Reagan didn’t sign the holiday into law until 1983, and it was first observed three years later in 1986. At first, some states resisted observing the holiday. They gave it alternative names or combined it with other holidays. It was until 2000 that Martin Luther King Jr. Day was officially observed in all 50 states for the first time.

National Memorial

25 The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial is located in Washington, D.C. The Memorial covers four acres and includes a granite statue of Martin Luther King carved by sculptor Lei Yixin. The memorial opened to the public on August 22, 2011. The official address of the monument, 1964 Independence Avenue, S.W., commemorates the year the Civil Rights Act of 1964 became law.

26 The centerpiece for the memorial is based on a quote from King's "I Have A Dream" speech: "Out of a mountain of despair, a stone of hope." A 30 feet high statue of King is named the Stone of Hope. It stands past two other pieces of granite that symbolize the "mountain of despair." When visitors come to the memorial, they pass through the Mountain of Despair on the way to the Stone of Hope, symbolically moving through the struggle as Dr. King did during his life. In addition to the statue, a 450 feet long inscription wall includes fourteen memorable quotes from King's sermons and speeches.
The statue of Martin Luther King Jr. was positioned so that he is looking over the water toward the horizon. The cherry trees around the memorial bloom every year during the anniversary of King's death. Although this is not the first memorial to an African American in Washington, D.C., King is the first African American honored with a memorial on or near the National Mall and only the fourth non-President have a memorial.

“Celebrating His Legacy” written for educational purposes.
Early Life

28 Martin Luther King Jr. was born as Michael King Jr. on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. Martin Luther King Jr. was the middle child of Michael King Sr. and Alberta Williams King. Martin Luther King Jr.‘s father, Michael King Sr., was also a successful minister. He changed his name to Martin Luther King Sr. in honor of a German religious leader named Martin Luther. Later on Michael Jr. followed his father's lead and changed his name to Martin Luther King Jr. Martin had one older sister and one younger brother. The King children grew up in a secure and loving environment but did experience racism in Atlanta.

29 King attended Morehouse College. He earned a sociology degree in 1948. Next, he attended Crozer Theological Seminary School in Chester, Pennsylvania. He was valedictorian of his class in 1951 and elected student body president. King then got his doctorate degree from Boston University where he met Coretta Scott. She was studying at the New England Conservatory School in Boston. They were married in June 1953 and had four children: Yolanda, Martin Luther King III, Dexter Scott and Bernice.

Civil Rights Movement

30 On December 1, 1955 Rosa Parks boarded the bus to go home from work when the bus driver demanded that Parks and several other African Americans give up their seats. Three other African American passengers reluctantly gave up their places, but Parks refused. Rosa Parks was arrested. On the night that Rosa Parks was arrested, civil rights leaders met to plan a citywide bus boycott. NAACP leader E.D. Nixon elected Martin Luther King Jr. to lead the boycott. The bus boycott lasted 382 days. Both King's and E.D. Nixon's homes were attacked. Finally, the courts ruled that bus transportation could no longer be segregated.

31 In January 1957, Martin Luther King Jr. and 60 ministers and civil rights activists founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to organize nonviolent protests for civil rights. King met with religious and civil rights leaders and lectured all over the country on race-related issues. Martin Luther King Jr. also encouraged college students to continue to use nonviolent methods during their protests. King and 36 students were arrested for peacefully sitting in the lunch counter area after the store refused to serve them. By August of 1960, the sit-ins had been successful in ending segregation at lunch counters in 27 southern cities.

32 On August 28, 1963, the historic March on Washington drew more than 200,000 people in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial. It was here that King made his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, emphasizing his belief that someday all men could be brothers. This resulted in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 authorizing the federal government to enforce desegregation of public accommodations and outlawing discrimination in publicly owned facilities. This also led to Martin Luther King receiving the Nobel Peace Prize for 1964.

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”
Assassination

On April 4, 1968 Martin Luther King Jr. was shot to death at a hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. A single shot fired by James Earl Ray from over 200 feet away at a nearby motel struck King in the neck. James Earl Ray assassinated King by firing a rifle from a bathroom window that looked out onto the hotel balcony where King was standing. He died one hour after being shot.

James Earl Ray was placed on the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted Fugitives List. He used a fake name and escaped to Canada, stayed for a month, then flew to England. Ray was finally caught on June 8 at Heathrow Airport in London, England. Ray pleaded guilty in March 1969 and was sentenced to 99 years in prison. He died on April 23, 1998.

“Martin Luther King Jr.” written for educational purposes.