

Grade 1 Pacing Guide

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Given the diversity of first-grade classrooms, we have not developed a standardized pacing guide. Instead, we encourage teachers to select the sections that best align with their students' needs, whether that means completing all lessons or implementing only a targeted subset. Each lesson will take 15-20 minutes to complete.

SECTION 1: Writing a Complete Sentence

SECTION 2: Writing a Paragraph

SECTION 3: Writing a Non-Text-Based Essay

SECTION 4: Writing a Narrative Essay

SECTION 5: Writing a Text-Based Informative or Opinion Essay

SECTION 6: Additional Activities & Strategies

WHERE TO BEGIN?

Are most students able to write in complete sentences?

YES

NO

Are most students able to write a complete paragraph?

Sentence Writing (Section 1)

YES

NO

Non-Text-Based Essay Writing (Section 3)

Paragraph Writing (Section 2)

PACING SUGGESTIONS

Below are two sample pacing options for classrooms that choose to complete every lesson:

Option 1: 3 lessons per week over 30 weeks

Begin using Top Score in October. This approach allows teachers to spend the first eight weeks of the school year focused on routines, handwriting, spacing, and other foundational skills. Classrooms then transition into a consistent three-day-per-week writing schedule for the remainder of the school year.

Option 2: 2-3 lessons per week over 38 weeks

Begin using Top Score the first week of school. This approach allows for consistent instruction but at a slower pace. Classrooms could follow a two-day-per-week writing schedule for the first 24 weeks of the school year as they complete Sections 1-3. After that, classrooms would transition to a three-day-per-week writing schedule for the next 14 weeks of the school year as they complete Sections 4-5.