

Contact Information	Jain Elliott jelliot2@lane.k12.or.us
School	Westridge Middle School
District	Oakridge School District 76
Unit Title	Biographical Sketch
Grade level with which unit is aligned to state standards.	7 th and 8 th
Grade level(s) at which unit may be taught.	7 th & 8 th
Duration	11 lessons
Unit Overview	Students will read two biographical sketches in their texts, writing short pieces connected with each. Then they'll write a longer narrative about someone they admire, revising with peer feedback using WriteSite.
Subject(s)	Language Arts
Strand(s)	Writing
Common Curriculum Goal(s)	Pre-write, draft, revise, edit, and publish across the subject areas.
Academic Standards Addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a variety of strategies to prepare for writing. • Discuss ideas for writing with classmates, teachers, and other writers, and develop drafts alone and collaboratively. • Use the writing process—prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing successive versions. • Focus on a central idea, excluding loosely related, extraneous, and repetitious information. • Use a scoring guide to review, evaluate, and revise writing for meaning and clarity. • Revise drafts for word choice, appropriate organization, consistent point of view—and transitions between paragraphs, passages, and ideas. • Edit and proofread using the writing conventions.
Instructional Technology Common Curriculum Goals (CCG) Addressed	Basic Functions Students understand the capabilities of a variety of technologies <i>and can choose the appropriate technology for their purpose.</i>
Career Related Learning Standards Addressed:	Demonstrate effective communication skills to give and receive information in school, community, and workplace.

How will student use the technology as a tool to enhance their learning?	The use of technology engages and facilitates knowledge construction by enabling students to communicate with a wide audience.
Objective	Students will learn to use technology to assist them in writing a narrative.
Prerequisites	Students have practiced toward, and some will have passed, the fifth grade writing benchmark.
Non-Technology Materials	Glencoe Literature Course 3 textbook.
Does this unit involve the use of technology	Yes
Required Hardware	Portable lab.
Required Software	WriteSite
Links to relevant web sites and Other Technology	WriteSite
Preparation	Provide examples of biographical sketches.

Instruction	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. On their laptops, students will write about a time they felt important or exceptional because someone gave them special attention. They'll save this document under "biographical sketch pre-write."2. Students will read the excerpt from Maya Angelou's "I Know why the Caged Bird Sings."3. Students will read the excerpt from Ved Mehta's "Sound Shadows of the New World."4. Using the laptops, students will write two short descriptive pieces, one about a character from one of the excerpts, the other about someone they admire. Save as in lesson 1.5. Students will freewrite on the words "Lean on Me" using the "I remember" format, thinking of people who've given them inspiration, comfort, advice, or help, saving as above.6. Students will choose up to 3 people they've written about in lessons 1, 4, or 5, and opening a WriteSite discussion document, select experiences that could provide topics for their papers. Using feedback from their classmates, students will select one.7. Students will organize their ideas around the personality trait they most admire, and select examples and events to illustrate that trait. Students will draft their sketches, including an introduction, body, and conclusion, on WriteSite for peer feedback.8. Students will provide feedback to their classmates using specific criteria for revising.9. Using their classmates' suggestions as appropriate, students will complete a final copy and proofread it.10. Students will practice scoring their own and classmates' papers using a scoring guide.11. Final revisions will be complete in response to peer scoring.12. Published copies of sketches will be shared with the class and submitted for publication in a class collection.
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Modifications for special needs students:	None needed. Instruction will be differentiated.
Modifications for Gifted Students:	None needed. Instruction will be differentiated.
Motivation	Students will enjoy writing about someone they know.
Assessment	Papers will be scored for Ideas and Content, Organization, Sentence Fluency, Voice, Word Choice, and Conventions.