

Writing Process, Discourse Mode Lessons

Essay writing allows students to think as subject area specialists. Asking students to write as scientists, philosophers, psychologists, or historians requires students to explore the criteria of that kind of writing. Teachers should always begin by modeling the kind of writing in which they wish to have the students participate.

The discourse modes contained in the AVID curriculum are those required for the California Assessment Program (CAP) Direct Assessment in Writing, as the AVID lessons were precursors of this examination. Each of the lessons is found in detail in the AVID Curriculum Guides, Grades 6-8 and 9-12. The lessons adhere to the following “writing process” sequence:

1. Work with examples of and discuss criteria for the writing prompt.
2. Prewrite.
3. Write a draft.
4. Exchange drafts with peers for comments and revisions
5. Write further drafts.
6. Complete a reader-writer workshop with one or more peers.
7. Write a final draft.
8. Teachers evaluate final drafts.
9. Students evaluate their own writing and the process.
10. After final drafts are discussed, students have an opportunity to revise for publication.