



Jump In Teacher's Guide, 2nd Edition, ISBN: 978-1-971136-81-3

Companion volume: *Jump In textbook, 2nd Edition*

Copyright © 2019, 2025 by Sharon Watson

WritingWithSharonWatson.com

Table of Contents

Get Your Feet Wet.....	1
Opinions—You’ve Got Them	11
Persuasion: The Basics	35
Cause and Effect.....	59
A Newspaper Article	75
A How-to	93
A Report	107
A Biography	153
Compare and Contrast	169
A Book Report.....	187
A Book Response	211
Description	219
Narration.....	245
Poetry.....	281
My Locker	291
Acknowledgements	295
Index.....	297

Note: The above table of contents is for the whole course. This sample consists of the teacher’s grading grid for the chapter “Opinions—You’ve Got Them.”

What have we added to *Jump In, 2nd Edition*?

- Additional lessons on how to write paragraphs and paragraph types, including topic sentences
- A chapter on reports that comes later in the year when students are more sure of themselves
- Two solid methods of compare-and-contrast writing
- Assignment options for new and experienced writers
- Detailed suggested writing schedules
- Specific checklists that teach proofreading for each essay assignment
- A font that will aid dyslexic and other students
- Detailed and specific grading grids in the teacher's guide for each essay assignment to make grading much easier
- An index
- 117 daily lessons, labeled as Skills

Schedules

Jump In, 2nd Edition covers a four-year range of middle school grades and writing abilities. For that reason, we've included a variety of useful schedules to help your composition class fit *your* students and *your* plans. As you can see with the following plans, you have a great deal of flexibility here.

One-year plan

If you have only one year to use *Jump In, 2nd Edition*, we recommend completing these chapters:

- “Get Your Feet Wet”
- “Opinions—You’ve Got Them”
- “Persuasion: The Basics”
- “A How-to”
- “A Report”
- “Compare and Contrast”
- Skill 1: Your Own Story from “Narration”

Dip into the 10-Minute Writing Plunges program during the year (page 41).

Two-year plan

If you would like to stroll through *Jump In, 2nd Edition* at a more leisurely pace, feel free to use the following plan:

Complete “Get Your Feet Wet” through “A Report” in the first year. In the second year, finish “A Biography” through “Poetry.”

When students get to the essay assignment at the end of each chapter, put the textbook aside as they work through the assignment, suggested writing schedule, and the accompanying checklist. That way, students can concentrate on their current essay assignment without being bogged down with new information from the next chapter.

When the essay is completed on time, move to the next chapter.

This pace also gives you time to repeat a lesson or section if you see that your student does not understand the material or could use more practice in it.

Dip into the 10-Minute Writing Plunges program during the year (page 41).

Three-year plan

If you have a young, reluctant, or inexperienced writer, you may want to use the three-year plan:

Begin the year with a few weeks of the 10-Minute Writing Plunges, *Jump In's* writing prompts program (page 41).

Complete a chapter in *Jump In, 2nd Edition* and then use a week or two of the 10-Minute Writing Plunges again.

Continue alternating between chapters and Plunges.

When students get to the essay assignment at the end of each chapter, put the textbook aside as they work through the assignment, suggested writing schedule, and the accompanying checklist. That way, students can concentrate on their current essay assignment without being bogged down with new information from the next chapter.

When the essay is completed on time, take a break from the textbook and do a few writing prompts from the 10-Minute Writing Plunges program again.

Opinion Essay Grading Grid

STUDENT
NAME _____

Has the student communicated his/her ideas clearly and expressed them well? 1-10 pts	<input type="radio"/>
Is there something noteworthy about the ideas or the writing (humor, insightfulness, obvious delight for the topic, and so on)? 1-10 points	<input type="radio"/>
Does the opening question, statement, fact, story, or quotation hook the reader? 1-5 points	<input type="radio"/>
Does the introduction clearly introduce the topic and opinion? 1-10 points	<input type="radio"/>
Are there 3 points? Are they solid? Do they support the opinion well? 1-25 points	<input type="radio"/>
Are they arranged in an effective order? 1-5 points	<input type="radio"/>
Does the conclusion adequately sum up the topic and opinion? 1-10 points	<input type="radio"/>
Are there separate paragraphs for the intro, each point, and conclusion? 1-5 pts	<input type="radio"/>
Are there topic sentences for each point? Does each paragraph support the topic sentence? 1-10 points	<input type="radio"/>
Did the student follow the written instructions, and is the paper turned in on time? 1-10 points	<input type="radio"/>
Grade	<input type="radio"/>

Comments:

Note: Students will express their opinion in the introduction; however, they have not yet learned about thesis statements. Also, grammar and mechanics are not graded in this first essay of the year.

Visit [Writing with Sharon Watson](#) for more information and to download your free student sample of *Jump In, 2nd Edition*.

