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Annotated Weekly Plan

As you'll see in this walk-through of a week's worth of instruction in the Teaching Guide, Traits Writing provides abundant opportunities to work with the whole class, small groups, and individual children. It also contains opportunities for children to work with their classmates and on their own, ensuring a stimulating, supportive environment in which to learn. Each key quality of each trait is covered over a five-day period, which can be extended during the five-day Reality Checks between units.

The three traits and the key quality for each that are the focus of the unit are highlighted. The key qualities of the revision traits—Ideas, Organization, Word Choice, Voice, and Sentence Fluency—are spiraled throughout the seven core units. The remaining traits—Conventions and Presentation—are worked on in every unit.

The focus mode for the unit (informative/explanatory or narrative) is defined. These modes alternate throughout the year. Children also engage in opinion writing via a literature-based activity on Day 4 during one of the three weeks in the unit, and an opinion writing prompt in the Reality Check at the end of each unit.

The graphic features a large, stylized 'W' on the left side. At the top right, three puzzle pieces are arranged horizontally, each containing an icon: a book, a speech bubble with sound waves, and a magnifying glass over a document. Below these, a table lists the weekly focus. A callout box on the right provides details for the 'Focus Mode: Narrative'.

Week 1	Organization	Creating a Mighty Middle 147
Week 2	Voice	Communicating With Sparkle and Pizzazz 157
Week 3	Word Choice	Picking "Just Right" Words 167

Focus Mode: Narrative
Purpose: to tell a story

The writer

- tells an interesting story.
- includes characters.
- sets the story in a time and place.
- provides a problem and solution.

Typical narrative formats assigned in the primary grades include real and made-up stories, cartoon strips, journals, plays and skits, and songs.