

# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science

## Information for Parents and Students

### What is the 5E Instructional Model?

The 5E Instructional Model is a hands-on learning curriculum in which students construct knowledge and meaning from experiences. By understanding and reflecting on these activities, students are able to bridge new knowledge with previous ideas. Students are actively engaged and become problem-solvers. Students are challenged to think critically on their own. The teacher provides guidance through the process, but students are responsible for their own learning.

#### **Engage:**

- Activity to gain interest in the topic.
- Activity to make connections with past topics.

#### **Explore:**

- Use of hands-on activities to come up with ideas, educated guesses or theories.

#### **Explain:**

- Direct instruction phase. Vocabulary is defined and concepts are discussed.

#### **Elaborate (Extend):**

- More advanced study of the topic.
- Apply topics to a new situation.

#### **Evaluate:**

- Evaluate learning and prove what you know in the form of writing, conversation or demonstration.
- May include a quiz / test / performance task / CER / Collins Writing.

#### **Curriculum:**

- |                                  |                              |                             |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Hydrosphere                   | 4. Minerals, Rocks, and Soil | 7. Earth and Human Activity |
| 2. Weather and Climate           |                              |                             |
| 3. Earth's Place in the Universe | 5. Plate Tectonics           |                             |
|                                  | 6. Earth's History           |                             |

#### **Grading: I do not give grades, YOU earn them.**

Grades are weighted as stated below. Extra credit assignments will not be provided. Students and parents should regularly check grades using Aspen.

Assessments (Tests / Performance Tasks / CER's / Collins Writing / Quizzes)	60%
Classwork	40%

#### **Assessments:**

- Students may not retake an assessment for a higher grade.
- Students may not make corrections to an assessment for a higher grade.
- A review sheet will be provided before each unit test.
- Review activities will be posted in Classroom.

## Performance Tasks:

- Any learning activity or assessment that asks students to perform to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and proficiency.
- Performance tasks yield a tangible product and/or performance that serve as evidence of learning.

## CER's:

- Claim, Evidence, Reasoning is a format for writing about science.

**Collin's Writing:** Collins writing is a method that produces written responses to open ended questions. Requiring students to regularly think on paper promotes learning. Teachers use frequent, usually short, writing assignments to increase students' involvement in lessons, check on their understanding of concepts, and promote their thinking about content. Although there are five types of Collins writing, we will focus on types 1, 2 and 3 in science class. Type one writing will be graded for completion only. Type two and three writing will be graded based on content. The five types of writing assignments develop students' essential writing and thinking skills in the context of their everyday classroom learning.

COLLINS WRITING PROGRAM

# Five Types of Writing

**Type 1 : Capture Ideas**

Type One writing gets ideas on paper—brainstorming. Type One is timed and requires a minimum number of items or lines. Questions and/or guesses are permitted. Evaluated with a check (✓) or minus (–). *One draft.*

**Type 2 : Respond Correctly**

Type Two writing shows that the writer knows something about a topic or has thought about the topic. It is a correct answer to a specific question, graded as a quiz. *One draft.*

**Type 3 : Edit for FCAs**

Type Three writing has substantive content and meets up to three specific standards called focus correction areas. It is *read out loud* and reviewed to see if the draft meets the following criteria: completes the assignment, is easy to read, and meets standards set by the focus correction areas. Revision and editing are done on the original. *One draft.*

**Type 4 : Peer Edit for FCAs**

Type Four writing is Type Three writing that is *read out loud* and critiqued by another. *Two drafts.*


**Type 5 : Publish**

Type Five writing is error free and of publishable quality. *Multiple drafts.*

**For All Types**

For all types, skip lines. For Types One and Two, label the type on top left-hand side of paper. For Types Three and Four, list focus correction areas on top left-hand side. Type Three and Four papers should be saved and used to practice editing skills.

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**Classwork:** The work we do in class that is essential to learning.

**Classroom Expectations:**

1. Come to class prepared including a charged Chromebook, interactive notebook, and pen / pencil.
2. Use the restroom when Mrs. Thumma is not teaching or giving directions. You must sign out using the E-Hall pass system.
3. Be in your assigned seat and begin the warm up as soon as you enter the classroom.
4. Be respectful, cooperative, and work collaboratively with your classmates and Mrs. Thumma.
5. Make up missed work as soon as possible. Making up missed work is your responsibility.
6. Water bottles are permitted but you may not eat in science class.
7. I should not see your cell phone.
8. Earbuds are to be used when permission is given.

**Discipline:** The classroom environment must be free from distractions so that all students can learn. If after receiving a warning for minor disruptive or uncooperative behavior (per day) the student continues to disrupt or be uncooperative, parents will be notified and the student will serve a lunch detention. Students serving three or more lunch detention punishments in a month will result in an office referral. Major disruptive or uncooperative behavior will result in a referral to the office and parents / guardians will be notified by phone or email

**Contacting Mrs. Thumma:** When you have a question, concern, or comment about science class please contact Mrs. Thumma by phone or email.

School Phone: 776-2000

E-mail: [jthumma@bigspringsd.org](mailto:jthumma@bigspringsd.org)