

Writing News Stories, cont.

Teacher Modeling: Model how to make notes for writing a weather news story. Say *I think I will write a news story about the weather today. First, I'll need to go outside and make notes about what I see.* Then, describe the weather you observe in your area. An example could be *Today is cloudy, and we have some rain, so I'll write cloudy and rainy. It's also warm, so I'll add warm to the notes. We haven't had any bad storms for a while, so I'll make a note of that too. What other notes do you think I should make to get ready to write a news story about the weather?*

- ◆ Explain to students why taking notes is an important strategy for collecting and organizing information before beginning to write. Make sure they understand why the strategy is important, when to apply it, and how to use it.

Guided Practice

Have students help you generate ideas for additional notes about the weather on the board or on chart paper. For example, ask whether the wind is blowing. If so, how strong is it? Is the rain a drizzle, a shower, or a thunderstorm? Are the clouds dark or white? Is the weather warmer or cooler than it was last week?

Assessment

You will use the Writing Rubrics found in the Level Appendix to evaluate students' news stories. You may use any of the rubrics for Genre, Writing Process, and Writing Traits. Share with students what you will be looking for when assessing their news stories.

Traits of Good Writing

Ideas The writer uses short phrases or single words to take notes before writing.

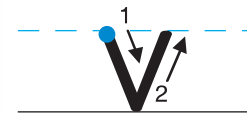
Penmanship

Alphabet Practice: The Letters v and w

Teach

Model how to form lowercase v and w by writing the letters on **Transparency 39**. Describe each stroke on the handwriting models as you trace them. Point out similarities in how these two letters are written—both letters have straight lines.

Starting point, slanting down right, slanting up right: small v



Starting point, slanting down right, slanting up right, slanting down right, slanting up right: small w

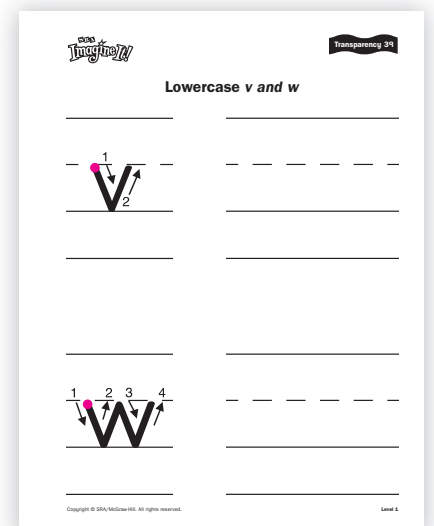


Guided Practice

Help students use their index fingers to trace the letters v and w on the **Alphabet Letter Cards** as they say each letter name.

Apply

- ◆ For letter-formation practice, provide students with handwriting paper. Have them write the letters v and w four times within the lines as they say the letter names.
- ◆ Have students proofread their line by circling any incorrect letters and making them better by rewriting them. Then have them underline their best v and w.



Transparency 39