

# Color Your Classroom

A language arts program that brings essay-writing skills to life



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## Welcome, Educators!

All of the world’s great achievements began with imagination. **Color Your Classroom**, a new **language arts** program, offers students the means to explore their own imaginations as powerful tools of expression.

Created by **Expo Dry Erase Markers**, this program features lessons and activities that encourage expressive writing. Reinforce the concepts by displaying the poster in your classroom and having students reflect on the theme of coloring their imaginations.

We hope that you and your students will have fun learning to write essays using imagination. Begin by using the Lesson Overviews on the next page. Then, encourage students to write an essay for the **Expo Classroom Makeover Contest**. Students can win a \$500 U.S. savings bond, and you can win a classroom makeover!

Phil Dolci  
Expo

Standards	Benchmarks	Lesson 1	Lesson 2
<b>LANGUAGE ARTS: Writing</b>			
Uses the general skills and strategies of the writing process	Prewriting: Uses a variety of prewriting strategies	●	●
	Drafting and Revising: Uses strategies to draft and revise written work	●	●
	Editing and Publishing: Uses strategies to edit and publish written work		●
	Writes narrative accounts, such as short stories		●
Uses the stylistic and rhetorical aspects of writing	Uses descriptive language that clarifies and enhances ideas		●
<b>LANGUAGE ARTS: Listening and Speaking</b>			
Uses listening and speaking strategies for different purposes	Contributes to group discussion	●	●
	Responds to questions and comments	●	●

Sources: NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English), McREL (Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning).



## Essay Contest!

Your Students can **WIN** a **\$500 U.S. savings bond** and a **makeover**

for your classroom!

Visit [www.expomarkers.com](http://www.expomarkers.com) for details.

# Lesson Overviews for Teachers

The following are teacher instructions for the lessons in this Teaching Guide. You may share the goals for each lesson with your students as you prepare to teach the units.



## Lesson 1: Outlining Essays

**Goals:** Students will brainstorm story ideas in preparation of writing an expressive essay.

**Time Required:** 40 minutes

**Materials Required: Outlining Essays:** Student Reproducible 1; pen or pencil; paper; dry erase board (optional); dry erase markers (optional)

### Directions:

1. Review the definition of *personal expressive writing* (writing that allows you to express your own thoughts and feelings through a letter, journal, essay, etc.) with students. Tell students that they will be preparing to write their own expressive essay on the topic: Why does your teacher deserve a classroom makeover?

Lead a discussion about the elements that make up an expressive essay. Use the following example to illustrate these elements:

**Introduction:** Begin your essay by stating the main idea. In an expressive essay, the main idea will be a personal experience, belief, or feeling that is meaningful to you. One way to hook your reader is to express your main idea with a short personal account of an important event in your life.

**Body:** The body of your essay supports your main idea by using examples. Be sure to describe your examples clearly so that your reader will understand your position, or point of view.

**Conclusion:** The conclusion of your essay should summarize your main idea. Restate your feelings and beliefs to make sure your main idea is understood.

2. Distribute copies of **Outlining Essays** Student Reproducible 1. Have students complete their outlines in preparation for writing an essay in Lesson 2.

**Bonus Challenge:** Have students make a graphic organizer to plan their essay. They may begin by writing their main idea in a circle. They may add additional circles or “webs” to describe their supporting details and conclusion.

**Marker Tips:** Illustrate outlines on the dry erase board. Have students take turns using different colored dry erase markers to fill in the title, main idea, opening sentence, details 1–3, and summary sentence.



## Lesson 2: Writing First Drafts

**Goals:** Students will write an expressive essay.

**Time Required:** 40 minutes, plus homework time

**Materials Required: Outlining Essays** Student Reproducible 1; **Writing First Drafts** Student Reproducible 2; pen or pencil; paper

### Directions:

1. Ask students to recall their “outlines” from Lesson 1. Tell them that today they will write a first draft of their essays.

2. Distribute Student Reproducible 2.

3. Give students time to complete their essay drafts. Tell them to first focus on getting their thoughts down on paper. If they get stuck, tell them to close their eyes and concentrate on their main idea. What emotions do they feel? What colors are associated with their feelings? What memories stand out the most? They may jot down notes to use in their essays. Tell students to refer to their outlines as they write.

4. Once the students have finished their essay drafts, allow time for revision. Have students complete their essays by adding any missing details and omitting unnecessary ones. Have them replace words or sentences that could be improved. In addition, have them correct any errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation.

**Bonus Challenge:** Have students log on to [www.expomarkers.com](http://www.expomarkers.com) to enter the Classroom Makeover Essay Contest.

**Marker Tips:** Have students make their stories come to life through colorful illustrations by creating a visual prop to support their essay. Students may also make a drawing that captures their emotions and/or memories.



## Outlining Essays

Writing an outline can help you organize and plan your essay. It is a useful tool that you can refer to when writing your essay.

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Introduction (2–3 sentences):

Main Idea: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Body (4–5 sentences):

Opening Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

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Detail 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Detail 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Detail 3: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Conclusion (2–3 sentences):

Summary Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

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Enter online! Visit [www.expomarkers.com](http://www.expomarkers.com) for essay topic, entry form, and official rules.

