Summary of a Framework for Teaching Writing Genres

- Find out what kids know about the genre, and chart their responses.

- Gather lots of appropriate examples of the genre, and have students examine these materials with your guidance. Examples may include reading aloud, browsing materials, having students work in pairs or small groups with materials, and so on. (immersion, demonstration)

- Discuss and chart, “What makes a good [blank]?” (shared demonstration)

- Write in the genre together as a class. (shared demonstration)

- Identify additional criteria for what to include when writing in the genre. (shared demonstration)

- Prepare to write. Have students gather resources, brainstorm ideas, converse with others, plan, perhaps conduct interviews and generate a list of questions. (guided practice)

- Write for a sustained period in the form of the genre for an authentic audience and purpose. (independent practice)

- Confer with students and teach what’s needed. (guided and independent practice)

- Publish and share with the intended audience. (celebration and independent practice)

- Encourage students to write more pieces in the genre. (independent practice)

slightly adapted from Writing Essentials by Regie Routman (Heinemann: Portsmouth, NH), © 2005; pp. 196–197