

PLC Guide: The following is a sample protocol that school-wide or teacher PLC teams might use to explore the skills and standard mastery necessary for success on a third grade writing task. This should take approximately 45-60 minutes.

Focus: Reading Comprehension and Writing

Topic for Discussion: Early grade preparation for third grade success with a writing task.

<p>Step 1:</p>	<p>Download the third grade writing task guide, “Third Grade Writing Practice Task 2” from the “For Leaders” section of the TDOE website.</p> <p>PRIOR to meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Download and print the third grade writing task and guide. 2. Provide the ELA standards for PreK, K, 1, and 2. The standards can be found at: http://www.tn.gov/education/standards/english.shtml
<p>Step 2:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask teachers to read the two passages of text, “The Emperor’s Challenge” (page two of task) and “Waiting for the Little Penguins” (page 4 of task). 2. Ask teachers to consider the prompt that follows the task and begin thinking about the skills third grade students must have in order to be successful with the assignment. 3. Ask teachers to share their thoughts on the expectations of third grade students and engage in discussion around the prerequisite skills necessary for successful completion.
<p>Step 3:</p>	<p>Teachers will complete the table on page 7 of the writing task guide, considering the knowledge, skills, and habits students must have to ensure success with this task and others like it.</p>
<p>Step 4:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Using the third grade ELA standards, consider which standards third grade students must master in order to be prepared for this task. 2. Using the table on page 8 of the writing task guide, “backwards map” the skills, noting the standards in second grade that support the skills for each section. Repeat, noting the standards in grade 1, K, and PreK that will support that section of the Backward Map.
<p>Step 5:</p>	<p>Reflection Exercise</p> <p>Using the “Start”, “Stop”, and “Keep Doing” protocol that you can download from the “For Leaders” page, think about your current practices with regards to preparing students for success in third grade.</p> <p>Consider those practices you need to “Start”, “Stop”, and “Keep Doing” in order to best prepare your students.</p> <p>Teachers can also do this activity on chart paper and share out with entire group.</p>

