

Introduction

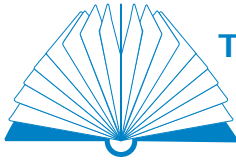
The NWT Literacy Council produced this Study Guide for adult educators and adult learners. It offers learning activities for four of the stories from the 6th edition of *The Northern Edge*.

1. Northern Biographies
2. Climate Change
3. Family Literacy
4. Finding Work

This is the second Study Guide we have produced for *The Northern Edge*. The first Study Guide offered learning activities for two stories from the first five editions of *The Northern Edge*.

The Northern Edge is an online newspaper for adult learners. It covers stories about the north and celebrates our lives North of 60. We have developed six editions of *The Northern Edge* so far. Each issue of *The Northern Edge* has several stories and most stories have interactive learning activities online.

The NWT Literacy Council produces *The Northern Edge*. Look for the stories and activities on our website www.nwt.literacy.ca.



How to use the Study Guide

The Study Guide starts with two writing resources for adult learners.

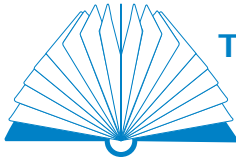
- ✓ Writing Skills – for lower literacy learners
- ✓ Writing Process Guide

Copy the writing resources and hand them out. Post them in the classroom. Review the writing process with learners before they begin a writing activity. Encourage learners to use the process as they write.

The Study Guide has four sections – one for each of these stories from the 6th edition of *The Northern Edge*.

- 1) Northern Biographies
- 2) Climate Change
- 3) Family Literacy
- 4) Finding Work

Each section includes the written text for the online story and a list of learning activities. Each learning activity has separate instructor notes and handouts. We use the symbols on the next page to show story text, instructor notes and handouts.



Story text is the written version of the story you'll find online at *The Northern Edge* at www.nwt.literacy.ca. *The Northern Edge* stories are also on the CD that comes with this Study Guide. We encourage you to go online to read the stories and do the interactive activities.



Instructor notes give basic information about each learning activity and any necessary details about how to do it.

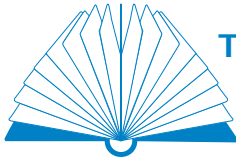


Handouts are the pages you can copy for learners to use during the learning activities. Some activities have no handouts. Some have up to five.

Pick and choose the activities you want. Use them as they are, or change them to suit the learners' needs or yours.

For each story, the first six learning activities focus on vocabulary, language skills, questions, comprehension, writing skills, and research.

- 1) **Vocabulary:** For example: definitions, best meaning, studying words, syllables, root words, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, etc.
- 2) **Language skills:** For example: cloze procedure, filling in the blanks, sequence of events, punctuation, sentence structure, tenses, nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc.
- 3) **Questions:** For example: factual, drawing conclusions, inference, using questions for journal writing, etc.

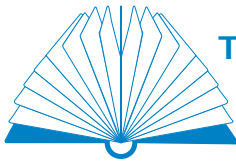


- 4) **Comprehension:** For example: rereading text for information, inferences, reading beyond the text, 5 ws and how, summarizing, etc.
- 5) **Writing skills:** For example: letters, mapping, paragraph writing, short essay writing, descriptive writing, narrative writing, persuasive writing, poetry, etc.
- 6) **Research:** For example: biographies, climate change, family literacy, Internet research, career options, etc.

Other learning activities include: speaking, listening, representing and viewing.

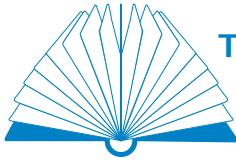
At the end of each section you'll find a list of a few key resources.

Please feel free to copy any handouts or other information in this Study Guide that you need for education purposes.



Writing Skills

- 1) **Begin** with a topic the learners are interested in.
- 2) **Talk** over what they want to write. Help the learner write ideas or words they may need.
- 3) **Write** a rough draft. Explain to the learners that all writers use a rough draft.
- 4) **Encourage** learners to proofread their work. Underline words they are not sure of. This is a good time to practice dictionary skills.
- 5) **Read** over the piece of writing together. A piece of writing can always be changed, or you can add more information.

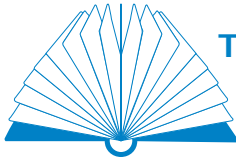


Writing Process Guide

The writing process guide describes eight basic steps:

- 1) Plan
- 2) Organize
- 3) Draft
- 4) Share
- 5) Revise
- 6) Edit
- 7) Prepare final copy
- 8) Print

- 1) Plan** Think about what you want to write. Read. Talk to others. Brainstorm. Collect your ideas. Make a topic list. Choose a topic.
- 2) Organize** Make an outline, a mind map, or a web. What ideas go together? What order makes sense?
- 3) Draft** Write your thoughts down. Don't worry too much about spelling or punctuation. Take your time.
- Read over what you've written to help you write more. Talk to someone if you get stuck.



- 4) Share** Read your writing out loud to someone. Ask for feedback: ‘How does this part sound?’ or, ‘Which sounds better, this or this?’
- Talk to other students about grammar, spelling, etc.
Take notes about any feedback you get.
Give polite feedback to others.
- 5) Revise** Does the story make sense? Do the parts fit together?
Are the transition words clear?
- Move parts of the text around. Add words or sentences. Take words out of sentences. Try different words.
- 6) Edit** Check grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- 7) Prepare final copy** Proofread and make changes.
- 8) Print** Use a word processor to make a final hard copy.
Where possible, use a word processor to compose, revise, and publish.