

**Element: Overview****Operating Concepts and Principles:**

- One paragraph about the learning students will do in the unit
- It explains the structure, progression and components of the unit
- It makes connections between the skills in the standards and the content of the texts

**Examples (Do's and Don'ts):****Do**

- Briefly explain the tasks students will encounter while studying the unit
- Provide types of reading types
- Explain what literary skills will be fostered
- Provide what standards will be addressed
- List Catholic Identity element to be infused
- Students read historical fiction and informational text about the Civil War in the United States and compare and contrast the ways in which each type of text describes key historical events. In order to gain a deeper understanding of the period beyond what is addressed in print, students listen to music and examine art from the Civil War period. The culminating activity is to compose a narrative that is set within a historical context, includes a fictional character with a conflict to grow from, the ideas of 'life and dignity of the human person' and 'rights and responsibilities' and incorporates authentic facts, photos, or artwork.
- Students read informational (how-to) texts on building bridges and view these amazing structures on the Internet. Through realistic fiction, they examine the possibility of friendship in conflict-filled settings. Reading fantasy texts that depict animals' experiences with "bridge-building" completes their exploration. Building on the writing of previous units, they write a letter to a character in *Charlotte's Web*. Students also gather words from poetry and explore the meanings of idioms and words with common roots.

**Don't**

- Explain each lesson in detail
- Provide titles of books or resources

**Design Tips:**

- Use your basal Teacher's Edition to gather the skill development of the unit
- Look at the Curriculum Maps for the CCSS to identify standards to be met
- Look at the CCSS grade level standards

**Criteria for Success:**

- Qualified teachers can read the overview and get a clear big picture of what students will learn and do in the unit
- Overview makes in clear how the unit is focused
- Overview matches the learning and teaching that actually happens in the unit

**Additional Resources:**

- Basal Reading Program
- Religion Text
- Common Core State Standards Curriculum Maps
- Catholic Social Teachings Guidelines