

Figure 1 The nature of the unit of study framework (modified from Ray, 2006)

	Why	Teacher's Role	Students' Role
Gathering Texts	High quality texts allow students to study how authors write well in this genre.	Teacher actively searches for high quality texts.	Students may also search for texts to study.
Setting the Stage	Students should understand they will write something like what they are studying.	Teacher helps students think about possible topics for the genre under study.	Students begin to actively think about possible topics for their writing.
Immersion	It is important to read many texts to get a feel for how the genre looks and sounds.	Teacher can read several texts aloud, thinking aloud along the way.	Students read additional texts in small groups or individually.
Close Study	It is important to study specific texts closely, naming what authors do. This provides students with ideas and options for their own writing.	Teacher charts students' "noticings" and helps them examine text in a thoughtful way.	Students closely read the text under study and share what they notice the author doing in the piece.
Writing Under the Influence	Teacher and students write their own piece.	Teacher writes alongside students, sharing his or her decision making along the way.	Students craft their pieces influenced by what they have read and discussed on a topic of their choice.