

Opinion Writing: Persuasive Speech, Persuasive Essay, and Feature Article

Kim Pham and Melissa Fisher

COLLECTING

- 3rd**
 - Generate lists of topics that kids understand and care about.
 - Consider using Scholastic News to help generate topics.
 - Collect entries in notebook, elaborating on an opinion/claim. Rehearse verbally before writing.
 - Practice using thinking stems while collecting (verbally and in writing).
- 4th**
 - Use Scholastic News, Newsela, Storyworks, Time For Kids etc. to generate topics.
 - Consider online blogging to collect entries and elaborate about various opinions.
- 5th**
 - Collect by exploring and elaborating on both sides of a topic.
 - While collecting, practice correctly citing evidence from the text.

CHOOSING

- 3rd**
 - Must choose a topic from “their world” that they understand and support with reasons.
 - Must choose a topic that teacher/student can find a resource about.
 - Consider a choosing checklist.
- 4th**
 - Must choose a 2 sided topic that they are excited to write about.
 - Must have resource or two in order to choose.
 - Suggested checklist to confirm resources and ability to generate reasons.
- 5th**
 - Choose a NEWSWORTHY topic that has two sides.
 - Must have MULTIPLE RESOURCES in order to choose.
 - Must be able to support BOTH SIDES of a topic.

DEVELOPING

- 3rd**
 - Develop reasons and details to support the opinion/claim.
 - Must support reasons with evidence (researched facts and quotes, personal experiences, and knowledge).
 - Consider organizational devices such as charts, booklets, and color coding.
- 4th**
 - Develop reasons and details.
 - Include and CITE evidence from text to support reasons.
- 5th**
 - Develop BOTH SIDES of an issue.
 - Consider taking classroom surveys and quotes from friends, teachers, community members, etc. to use for evidence.

DRAFTING

- 3rd**
 - Draft emphasizing an organized and structured form.
 - Intro with thesis, reason, reason, reason, conclusion with a final thought that restates opinion.
 - Draft using thinking stems and transitions.
- 4th**
 - Draft keeping in mind order of reasons and the option for some reasons to have multiple paragraphs.
 - Intro with thesis + reasons, reason, reason, reason, counterargument, conclusion with call to action.
- 5th**
 - Introduction of topic, one side, the other side, author’s opinion, conclusion.
 - Draft using subheadings and possible columns.
 - Draft using a journalistic tone.

REVISING

- 3rd** -Remove details that don't make sense, don't support the thesis or reason, or are distracting.
-Elaborate to explain reasons and evidence. Reconsider the use of thinking stems.
-Address the audience/reader with questions.
-Utilize a revising and editing checklist.
- 4th** -Address and refute the counterargument
-Utilize a persuasive tone through word choice and sentence variety.
- 5th** -Add pictures and captions.
-Revise for journalistic (Informative + Persuasive) tone.
-Revise for structure, clarity and length. Usually articles have some type of word count limit.

EDITING

- 3rd** -Edit for paragraphing
-Edit for correct use of verb tenses.
- 4th** -Edit for correct punctuation of evidence and quotations.
-Edit for accurate usage of quantitative words.
- 5th** -Edit for correct usage of commas, emphasis on complex sentences.
-Edit for use of headings, sub headings, font choice, and paragraphing

PUBLISHING

- 3rd** -Write or type a final speech, best effort.
-Read speeches aloud. Public speaking mini lessons. :)
- 4th** -Type a final essay, best effort.
-Share or post essays publically.
- 5th** -Type final article, best effort.
-Compile a class magazine or post articles in a public location.

PARCC PREP

- 3rd** -Provide students with a relatively short on level text such as a Scholastic article and a prompt. Challenge students to craft an opinion and support it with reasons, evidence, and deep thinking, in essay form, in one sitting.
- 4th** -Provide students with a relatively short on level text or two (Scholastic News, Newsela, Time For Kids). Challenge students to craft an opinion and support it with reasons, evidence, and analysis, in essay form, in one sitting.
- 5th** -Provide students with 2 or more on level texts that are relatively short. (Scholastic News, Newsela, Time For Kids). Challenge students to craft an opinion and support it with reasons, evidence, and analysis, in essay form, in one sitting.