



WOODRIDGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68

Common Core Writing Newsletter

Bringing History to Life

This unit takes 4th graders through writing information pieces which are elaborated upon with facts, definitions and examples. Students begin writing about broad topics before choosing a focused topic to write on. The unit ends with a celebration where students teach others all they learned about their topic.

About this Unit

Students will begin this unit by writing on a topic the class has studied together. The initial work starts with students learning more sophisticated ways to organize their writing. Students will experiment with formatting techniques such as headings, subheadings, and including information that is rich and detailed.

The second part of the unit asks students to narrow their topics even further. Students will be asked to draw evidence from texts to analyze, reflect, and research. They will focus on choosing a logical structure for their writing and then enhance it with more sophisticated transition words and phrases. Students will also present information through details, text features, and quotations. The goal is for students to make purposeful choices in their writing which meets the needs of their audience.

The end of the unit ramps up the writing by asking students to not only organize their information in a logical way, but also to embed their own ideas about the information they are writing. Students will be guided through generating their own ideas to drive further research on their topic.

Once the students publish their work they will have a celebration to share their writing with others.

Additional Information

Students will continue to participate in a writer's workshop during a daily, dedicated writing time. The daily workshop is set up so that students will be presented with a mini-lesson and then be sent off to write as the teacher confers with students both individually and in small groups.

Attached to this newsletter are a grade level specific checklist and an example of proficient student writing for this unit's genre of writing. Please contact your student's teacher should you have any further questions.