



**WOODRIDGE**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68

## **Common Core Writing Newsletter**

### **Shaping Texts: From Essay and Narrative to Memoir**

*This unit asks students to strive toward the Common Core aims of determining meaning, recounting events and experiences precisely, and logically linking opinions and evidence. This unit brings together the art of memoir and the art of personal essay.*

#### **About this Unit**

This unit begins with asking students to author a memoir. Students will be asked to make a text that says, "This is who I am." The emphasis during the first part of the unit will be on helping students to write a lot, to work productively, and cycle through the writing process with independence.

In the first set of lessons, students will learn to use their notebooks to research their lives, collecting both entries and idea-based writing. They will learn that writers write about large ideas and theories as well as zoom in to write about one time when that idea was true. Students will learn to research and reflect on their own experiences and transfer those ideas into their writing.

In the second set of lessons, students will continue to research, with a focus on memoir structures. As soon students are exposed to a variety of these structures (narrative with reflection, essay-like structure, list-like structure), student will begin to choose the form that best suits the idea they want to put forth.

In the final set of lessons, students will write a second memoir, utilizing the tools and skills they have strengthened throughout this unit.

#### **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.