



WOODRIDGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68

Common Core Writing Newsletter

3rd Grade Unit 3

Persuasive Speeches, Petitions, and Editorials

This unit allows 3rd graders to channel their opinions to persuade others to take action in local and global causes which they are passionate about. Students will have the opportunity to write and deliver persuasive speeches, gather research to support their opinions, and collaborate with a “cause group” to support causes.

About this Unit

Students will begin this unit by writing many persuasive speeches. They will look at the world around them and determine how to make it a better place. Those ideas will be the inspiration for the speeches they will write and deliver. Students will learn that persuasive writing follows a specific structure. They will make a claim, and add in reasons and examples to support it.

As the unit continues, students will have the opportunity to write deeply on one chosen topic. Students will learn to collect evidence and categorize it to determine which evidence should be included in their speeches.

Then, students will study petitions, editorials, and persuasive letters to learn how the text compares to the speeches they have been writing. They will quickly recognize the persuasive strategies they used in their speeches are present in other types of persuasive writing as well. This will drive their work as they again cycle through the writing process to create a petition, editorial, or persuasive letter.

Finally, students will work in “Cause Groups” to collaboratively support global causes. This culminating project will allow students to apply all the persuasive strategies they have been learning. Students will work together to determine how their work will reach their intended audience.

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.