



WOODRIDGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT **68**

Common Core Writing Newsletter

The Art of Information Writing

One of the important ways we can prepare students for the outside world and for higher education is to be sure that they are comfortable using writing as a tool to synthesize, organize, reflect on, and teach knowledge. This unit will help to achieve that goal.

About this Unit

In the first set of lessons, students will be teaching others about a topic through their writing. As they get started writing, the teacher will focus on teaching ways to write with authority by having students teach their topics to others. Students will then spend time trying out various writing structures before drafting.

The next set of lessons emphasizes both drafting and revising. For example, students will learn revision strategies that include using research to strengthen elaboration. They will continue to use lessons they learned previously in their writing.

The third set of lessons will help students prepare for publication. There is an emphasis on the importance of being aware of one's audience. Students will keep in mind the sorts of things a nonfiction author uses in his or her books. This includes: using text features, checking facts, and attending to conventions. They will focus on creating information books they see in their LRC.

The last bend focuses on helping to create independent writers. Students will learn ways to write informatively, in a variety of genres, about a topic. At the end of the unit, students have an opportunity to possibly teach their writing skills to younger students as a celebration.

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.