



WOODRIDGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68

Common Core Writing Newsletter

5th Grade

Literary Essay: Opening Texts and Seeing More

This unit asks students to strive toward the Common Core through analyzing literature, developing a central claim, and writing a well-structured, evidenced based opinion piece.

About this Unit

This unit begins with asking students to write a literary essay. Students will be asked to develop and support a claim about a character or theme in a shared classroom text. The emphasis during the first part of the unit will be on helping students see connections between literary essays and their previous work with opinion/argumentative writing.

In the first set of lessons, students will read in order to grow ideas about characters and theme. They will do this with a shared video and transcript. Once students develop their claim they will write a thesis statement and develop mini-stories as support.

In the second set of lessons, students will self-select a narrative text to grow ideas about characters and theme by analyzing when characters face troubles. Then, they will work to develop a thesis which expresses their claim and work to strengthen it through multiple revisions. Students will then learn strategies (ranking quotes, analyzing author's craft, etc) to support their claim.

In the final set of lessons, students will write another literary essay, 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.