



**WOODRIDGE**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68

## **Common Core Writing Newsletter**

### **The Research-Based Argument Essay**

*This unit asks students to write opinion pieces with reasons and information to support a point of view. Lessons will teach students to argue logically by analyzing texts to weigh evidence and consider logical reasoning. Students will be asked to consider audience appeal and counterargument as well as logically organize their writing.*

#### **About this Unit**

The unit begins with students exploring whether or not chocolate milk should be served in schools. Students will be guided to understand both sides of an issue before making an argument. Students will analyze both print and digital texts and utilize that information to draft opinion letters to the principal. The lessons taught will teach students to analyze data from the texts they read. Students will further learn which information should be quoted or paraphrased.

The second portion of the unit begins with a reply from the principal inviting students to further their research in order to craft argument essays to present to a panel of other stakeholders such as, administrators, parents, or cafeteria workers. Students will return to their research with a critical eye as they become more knowledgeable about the topic. As students write they will acknowledge counterclaims and attend to the perspective of their audience.

The unit ends with students taking a stance on a topic of their choice pertaining to something they want to change in the world. Students will apply the research strategies and skills they learned to write an argument essay.

#### **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.