



**WOODRIDGE**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68

## **Common Core Writing Newsletter**

### **6th Grade Information Unit**

#### **Research-Based Information Writing**

*This unit will focus on teaching sixth-graders increasingly sophisticated ways to understand and critique information, to improve upon it, and ways to take action by explaining it thoroughly, in writing and in digital form, to others.*

#### **About this Unit**

The first set of lessons in this unit will teach students that writers read and analyze a wide variety of sources to develop a big-picture view of a topic, and to discover key points and ideas within a larger topic. At the end of these lessons students will draft an informational essay. As students write and revise this informational essay, they will figure out what aspect of the topic they are still curious about. This will help to set the stage for their future writing project(s). The goal for this set of lessons is to teach students how to glean a big picture view of a topic, uncover key points or ideas within that topic, and draft an informational essay conveying the information and ideas.

In the second grouping of lessons, students will choose a compelling issue to write about. As they use research to learn more about their topic, students will be taught such things as how to incorporate tables of contents, accurate quotes, and elaboration on key points into their writings.

In the final grouping of lessons, students will share their knowledge on a digital platform, just as experts are often called upon to share their information widely with others. After studying digital mentor texts, students will decide how they will publish their information.

#### **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.