



WOODRIDGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68

Common Core Writing Newsletter

6th Grade Unit 1

Personal Narrative: Crafting Powerful Life Stories

This unit will help students determine the small moments in their lives worth writing about. Students will transition to middle-school writing and be encouraged to write about moments that truly matter to them.

About this Unit

Students will begin the unit by generating excitement and inspiration for writing as a community of writers. They will study the work of other middle-schoolers to remind themselves of all they know about narrative writing. Students will be encouraged to regularly assess their work, review the options, and make their own decisions about the work that needs to be done.

As students begin their journey into middle-school writing, the expectations for productivity will be high. Students will be expected to write at least one long (two-page) flash draft personal narrative each day, and perhaps more for homework. The goal is that each day the quality of their drafts will improve. Students will study mentor texts closely to emulate the quality of writing. This volume of writing will give students a variety of choice when they choose a piece to publish.

Towards the middle of the unit, students will choose one of their seed ideas to take through the writing process. Students will be encouraged to use all their crafting techniques to revise their writing and communicate meaning. The goal is for students to make their writing stand out and tell the story of a moment in their life.

Finally, students wrap up the unit by taking on a new personal narrative. Students will be expected to more independently move through the writing process. Writers will be encouraged to use a variety of resources to evaluate their own writing and set goals for moving forward.

Additional Information

Students will 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.