



**WOODRIDGE**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68

## **Common Core Writing Newsletter**

### **Writing About Reading**

*Students will learn to write about their favorite books in ways that persuade others to love them as much as they do. They will form opinions about the books they read and think deeply about characters within and across series. Students will learn to state clear opinions and support these ideas with evidence.*

#### **About this Unit**

Students will begin this unit by writing letters about the characters they've met in their favorite books. The beginning focus of this unit is to guide students to develop opinions about these characters. They will learn to state opinions clearly, retell their stories so that their opinions make sense to readers, and revise their letters before sending them out into the world. In addition to characters, students will be asked to write about their favorite scenes, illustrations across the text, and lessons learned.

Next, students will focus on raising the level of their letter writing. Students will be pushed to deepen their thinking to allow elaboration to take place within their writing. There is a strong focus on reading and rereading literature to come up with more ideas for opinions and more details to support their opinions.

Lastly, writers will shift from letter writing to writing that resembles an essay format. They will write to persuade others that their favorite books are worthy of awards. Writers will learn how to incorporate quotations to support their opinions into their essays. In addition, writers will make comparisons across collections of books and focus on introductions and conclusions to enhance their final written piece.

#### **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.