

Focus Skill: Writing Opinion/Argument Pieces

CCSS Standard(s):

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.1 Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or name the book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply a reason for the opinion, and provide some sense of closure.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.1

Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply reasons that support the opinion, use linking words (e.g., because, and, also) to connect opinion and reasons, and provide a concluding statement or section.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.1

Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1, 5.1

Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

Learning Target:

I can provide a strong argument for my class to hold a fundraising event.

Materials:

- Anchor chart
- Paper
- Pencils
- Mentor text for opinion/argument writing
- Argument template

Introduction:

(Write the questions below on the board for the introductory turn-and-talk.)

Think about a time when you really wanted something – either an item like a toy or food, or for something to happen.

What was it?

Why did you want it?

Did anyone say “no” or tell you that it wouldn’t happen? Why?

Who did you have to persuade to make it happen? (Introduce this vocabulary word if it is new.)

Did you eventually get the item or did the event occur?

Turn and talk with a partner about this situation. (Have 2-3 students share.)

When you’re sharing your opinion, it’s important to give reasons for this opinion that will persuade the other person or people to agree with you. The stronger the reasons, the stronger your argument – and the more likely you’ll be to get them on your side.



(Introduce and read your mentor text, should you prefer to use one, and list the major argument(s) with supporting reasons.)



Activity:

I wonder if our school administrators would let us raise money at our school. Let's pretend they aren't open to the idea, and prepare our argument in case we need to convince them. Today you're going to provide an argument with reasons why we should hold a fundraiser.

Option 1: List a few reasons why fundraising at our school would be a good idea.

Option 2: Provide possible reasons why administrators would not approve a fundraiser at school (not enough time in the day, takes away from learning time, too expensive) and have students generate their reasons as a counter-argument (holding it before and after school or during recess/lunch, incorporating subjects like math at and after the event, and free or low-cost event ideas and resources).

(Students can use Alex Scott's initiatives as examples to support their side of the argument. See below for possible anchor charts.)



Progress Monitor:

Generating a main argument and strong reasons to support this argument

Accommodations/Modifications:

- Each student writes a reason on a post-it and puts it on the board, so the class can categorize similar responses to create 3-5 main reasons for their collective opinion.
- Write a letter together in partners, groups, or as a class.
- Provide strong reasons as a class that the teacher will turn into a letter outside of class time or on a different day.

Thank you again for your interest in Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation!

We hope you will consider supporting ALSF with the help of your class, club, school, district, or community group.

Please contact our office by phone at 866.333.1213
or by e-mail at Takeastand@alexslimonade.org
if you have any questions or need help getting started.



Anchor Chart Ideas:

What is Persuasion?

A way of convincing people:

To buy a product

To believe something or act a certain way

To agree with a point of view

The "Oreo" Method

Opinion

Reasons

Examples

Opinion (restated)

The Five-Step Method

State your claim

Provide evidence

Counterclaim

Rebuttal

Conclusion



Name _____

Date _____

Persuasive Writing Planning Page

Opinion: _____

Reasons:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Examples:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Opinion (restated): _____



Name _____

Date _____

Persuasive Writing Planning Page

State your Claim: _____

Provide Evidence:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Counterclaim:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Rebuttal:

Conclusion:

