

LESSON: DIY Pledge Writing**GRADE: 5****OBJECTIVES:****Reading Informational Texts-
Key Ideas & Details**

- **RI.5.2** Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.
- **RI.5.3** Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text.

Writing-**Research to Build & Present Knowledge**

- **W.5.7** Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

MATERIALS & RESOURCES:

- Definition, synonyms, and examples of *Pledge*.
- Paper
- Pencils
- Optional-access to website: [Earth Mama Music/Buy or Hear](http://www.earthmama.org/buyhear)
 - Look for “Grass Roots” cd or “Earth Mama” cassette
 - <http://www.earthmama.org/buyhear.php>

PRESENTATION:

Share examples of pledges with students. Explain to students that anyone can write a pledge. Talk about the purpose and goals of writing a pledge. A pledge is a promise to act in a specific way in the future. The Pledge of Allegiance refers to how we act as citizens of this country. A pledge can also refer to our behavior as citizens of Earth. If you were writing a pledge to be a good citizen to the environment what would you write?

DIRECTIONS:

1. Review the definition and synonyms for pledge. Students could find additional examples. Encourage students to take notes.
2. After reading or hearing some examples students can write a short “how to” guide for writing a pledge. This gets them to think about the technical aspects of writing a pledge. For example:
 - Specific actions you will fulfill
 - Sign your name and include the date
 - Give the reason you are pledging and your goals
3. Listen to Earth Mama’s song; Earth Pledge
4. Have students make a list of goals they feel are important in their relationship with nature. These goals can be used to write the actions part of the pledge.
5. Using their notes, the “how to” guide, and their list of goals, students can write a pledge in their own words expressing how they want to behave in relation to the environment. They could write their pledge as a song or poem, create a plaque, or flag that goes with the pledge...

TIME:**45 min****DEFINITION-**Pledge; *noun*

1. A solemn promise or agreement to do or refrain from doing something: *a pledge of aid; a pledge not to wage war.*
2. Something delivered as security for the payment of a debt or fulfillment of a promise, and subject to forfeiture on failure to pay or fulfill the promise.
3. The state of being given or held as security: *to put a thing in pledge.*
4. *Law*
 - A. The act of delivering goods, property, etc., to another for security.
 - B. The resulting legal relationship.
5. Something given or regarded as a security.

SYNONYMS:

Vow, promise, assurance, guarantee, undertaking, word of honor

EXAMPLES OF AN OATH AND PLEDGE-

Olympic Oath:

In the name of all the competitors I promise that we shall take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, committing ourselves to a sport without doping and without drugs, in the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory of sport and the honour of our teams.

Graduation Pledge of Social and Environmental Responsibility:

I pledge to explore and take into account the social and environmental consequences of any job I consider and will try to improve these aspects of any organizations for which I work.