

FACILITATOR GUIDE: Writing a Persuasive Letter

GRADE: 6th - 8th

CONCEPTS & SKILLS:

Reading for Informational Texts

- **RI.6.7.** Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.
- **RI.7.7.** Compare and contrast a text to an audio, video, or multimedia version of the text, analyzing each medium's portrayal of the subject (e.g., how the delivery of a speech affects the impact of the words).
- **RI.8.7.** Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (e.g., print or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea.

MATERIALS & RESOURCES:

- Internet- websites with written, audio, and video formats and related to selected topics
- Books written about selected topics
- Printer
- Paper
- Envelopes

PRESENTATION:

As citizens of this Earth, we can help by bringing important messages to leaders in our communities. In this exercise, students will become familiar with a topic by comparing, contrasting, evaluating and integrating information from various media sources. Then students write a persuasive letter to a leader or stakeholder connected to that topic. Some questions they might ask themselves-

- What messages did you get from the books, websites, and videos?
- Do you have opinions about any of those messages?
- What facts do you know about the topics?
- What facts do you need to learn about the topic in order to convince others of your opinion?
- Who are some people who might be able to do something about the problems you have opinions about?

DIRECTIONS:

1. Have students form small groups in which to brainstorm ideas about which they have concerns. Make a list of topics for the class from this brainstorm process.
2. Students will use various media formats to collect information about the selected topics. They should take a few notes about their experience with various formats. Questions to consider about the different media formats:
 - Do you have a preferred media format from which to learn?
 - What is it about that format that is most helpful?
 - What are the advantages and disadvantages of the various forms of media?
 - What is the best media to use for your letter? Would pictures or sound be worthwhile?
3. Use the OREO graphic organizer to teach persuasive writing-
 - O stands for opinion
 - R stands for reasons
 - E stands for explanation
 - O stands for restating the opinion again
4. Do several graphic organizers as a class, and then have the students complete a few on their own. Have them choose the one they like best and write their letter based on that OREO graphic organizer.

TIME:**120 min.**



Opinion:



Reasons:



Explanation:



Restate Opinion: