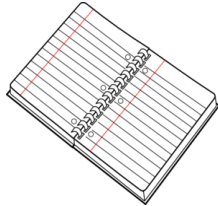




# Family Writing Connections

## Grade 4 Unit 2: Boxes and Bullets-Personal and Persuasive Essays



### Overview:

During this unit, *Boxes and Bullets-Personal and Persuasive Essays*, students will learn the key qualities of essay writing with a focus on structure and elaboration. Students will begin by developing opinions about personal experiences and gathering evidence to support the reasons for their opinions as they draft a personal essay. This work will prepare students to form persuasive opinions that are more generalized and develop a plan for a persuasive essay. They will learn to include a greater variety of evidence, such as outside evidence, and revise by elaborating on how the evidence connects to their reasons and opinions.

### In this unit, Students will:

- **Develop** a sense of the structure of an essay
- **Inquire** as to what makes for strong freewriting and **examine** examples
- **Develop** ideas and thesis statements to build plans for personal essays
- **Plan** an essay using "boxes and bullets"
- **Cite** specific details and examples to support the claim
- **Write** an essay about a personal opinion related to the writer's own life
- **Collect** and develop ideas
- **Craft** introductions and conclusions
- **Categorize** evidence to most effectively support their reasons
- **Explain** how one's reasons and evidence support the thesis statement
- **Draft, edit, and revise** a well-organized

persuasive essay about a personal topic and a more general topic

- **Evaluate** using a writing checklist to set revision goals
- **Draft** a persuasive essay with increased independence
- **Transfer** and **apply** everything they've learned in the first two bends to a new essay
- **Flash draft** and **revise** on the run before editing and publishing their final essay

### Ways to help at home:

- Ask your child to express his or her opinion about current events and issues that are important to him or her.
- Encourage him or her to justify it with clear reasons.
- Discuss both sides of an age-appropriate issue.

### See attached Writing Rubric and Exemplars for this Unit:

- Fourth Grade Opinion Writing Checklist
- Exemplar: *Football at Recess*

### New Jersey Student Learning

**Standards (NJSL):** Please refer to Morris School District Rubicon Atlas Website to view standards specific to this unit.

