



Family Writing Connections

Grade 5 Unit 3: Persuasive & Research-Based Argument Essays



Overview:

The freedom to argue is one of our most important freedoms. Our fifth grade students will exercise this precious freedom as they argue with logic as well as passion to create change in topics that matter to them. Our fourth graders will be developing opinions about personal experiences and gathering evidence to support the reasons for their opinions. As argument writers, students are expected to structure their writing so that it includes claims that are supported by reasons that are backed by evidence. They will learn to withhold judgment, read critically, note-take, build an argument, and then revise, and rethink. Students will be studying the works of mentor texts and applying various persuasive techniques. Students will produce a compelling and convincing argument piece that will charge readers into action.

In this unit, Students will:

- **Develop** a sense of structure of an essay
- **Create** thesis statements to build plans for essays
- **Analyze** and **evaluate** their evidence to confirm that their own arguments are solid
- **Cite** specific details to support their claims
- **Use** argument skills in a variety of ways and contexts
- **Establish** and set goals to strengthen their writing
- **Edit** their writing to write cohesive and well-structured paragraphs

- **Present** and discuss their writing

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
- Talk with your child about such things as movies, television programs, songs, and plays. Encourage him or her to express and justify opinions.
- Encourage your child to justify their opinion with clear reasons
- Discuss both sides of an age appropriate issues
- Various research websites:
<http://tjlib.weebly.com>
<http://newsela.com>

See attached Writing Checklist and Exemplars for this Unit:

- Opinion Checklist
- Grade Level Exemplar

New Jersey Student Learning

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

