Opinion Writing

Reading, Writing, and Reflecting

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What is Opinion Writing for FSA?

5-3-1 activity

5- words that come to mind when you think about opinion writing

(Share with your group)

3 - words that your group thinks best captures the topic.

1-word that best captures the group’s thinking about the topic and report some reasons for choosing it.
Cluster 1: Text Types and Purposes
Strand: Writing

LAFS.4.W.1.1 Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information. (CCL3)

a. Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer’s purpose.

b. Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.

c. Link opinion and reasons using words and phrases (e.g., for instance, in order to, in addition).

d. Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.
Opinion Writing– LAFS

Focus. Evidence. Elaboration. Conventions – talking about terms and the state rubric with the students

What does this look like?

Can 4th graders practice reflecting on learning by looking at their own writing?
In essence it (CCSS) says that to pull evidence from sources and to cite them, you first have to read them well.

(Pathways to Common Core, p.134)
The Big Questions still lingered -

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE?

How will students respond?

Will students be able to transfer this skill to independence?
If you could go back in time would you rather meet George Washington or Benjamin Franklin?
The question was posed at the beginning of each lesson:

How can reflecting on your own writing improve your understanding of the task?
One approach to
3 plusses and 1 “I want to work on”

Focus – read for a clear focus (Did I state my opinion and stay focused on that opinion throughout my writing?)

Evidence and Elaboration – re-read and look for evidence that supports my opinion (Did I clearly cite evidence from the articles I read? Will the reader know which article I am citing? Did I elaborate on my opinions?)

Conventions – re-read for proper conventions (Did I use “good manners” for my reader? Did I use nice handwriting, spacing, punctuation and strong word choices?)
One approach to 3 plusses and 1 “I want to work on” contd…

1. Read

2. Self Reflection

3. Share with a partner and the class

4. Repeat steps for Focus, Evidence, Elaboration, and Conventions

After all steps are complete – make a list of 3 plusses (things you did really well) and then choose 1 area that you want to focus on during the revision process.
February Writing Sample

Student J – 4th grader
Opinion Writing Prompt

Is animal racing good or bad?
“Generous amounts of close, purposeful reading, rereading, writing and talking…are the essence of authentic literacy. These simple activities are the foundation for a trained powerful mind – and a promising future.”

Mike Schmoker, Results Now!
Let’s Keep the Conversation Going……

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