

Implementing Common Core Standards

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LA.2.W.1. Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply reasons that support the opinion, use linking words (e.g., because, and, also) to connect opinion and reasons, and provide a concluding statement or section.

Throughout this unit, students will practice writing opinion pieces by commenting on blogs. They will learn how to express their opinion, how to support their opinion with clearly stated arguments, how to give constructive feedback and how to write concluding statements. They will also learn how to use transition words to link their ideas coherently.

LA.2.W.6. With guidance and support from adults, use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers.

During the week of this unit's implementation, the students will use both traditional (pen and paper) and digital (computers, tablets) tools to produce and publish writing. They will pursue the conventions of the writing process following all the steps (pre-writing, drafting, editing, revising, and publishing). They will get the chance to share their work and evaluate each other's writing.

LA.2.L.1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

In this unit the students will focus on using nouns, verbs and adjectives skillfully to improve their writing. They will also practice using punctuation correctly.

L.A.2.L.4e. Use glossaries and beginning dictionaries, both print and digital, to determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases.

Adequate vocabulary development is extremely important. Vocabulary is a vital factor in the development of reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills and research shows that it is a good predictor of school achievement. The students will use glossaries and dictionaries both in print and online in order to improve their writing and enhance their vocabulary.