



Lesson 1

Take Action- Writing Persuasively

Introduction to Letter Writing

Objectives

After this lesson, students will be able to:

- Write a rough draft of a persuasive letter

Overview/Purpose:

In this lesson, students will learn the structure of a formal letter. After brainstorming ideas for their own letter, they will start working on a rough-draft.

Guiding Questions:

- What is the structure for a formal letter?
- How can you write a powerful and persuasive letter?

Recommended Time:

90 minutes

Common Core State Standards:

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.1](#)

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.2](#)

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.4](#)

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.5](#)

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.6](#)

Materials:

Write to Defend handout

Technology Required:

None

Lesson Design:

- Post the quote, "The pen is mightier than the sword." - Edward Bulwer-Lytton. Give students 3 – 5 minutes to write a quick response to the quote.
- Students turn and talk with a partner about their responses.
- Explain that the class will be demonstrating the power of the pen by writing letters to public officials or other people in power.



Lesson 1

Take Action- Writing Persuasively

Introduction to Letter Writing

- Distribute and review Write to Defend handout with students. (You may provide students with a list of possible recipients for their letters depending on the issues they have selected.)
- Students use the brainstorming box to gather their ideas and then begin writing a rough draft of their letter.
- Students should bring a typed second draft to class the following day.