

Lit Blitz 4

Long Writing Task:
Writing a Series of Opinion

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

Learning Goals: We are learning to...

- identify the elements of a successful series of paragraphs supporting an opinion
- write an effective series of paragraphs supporting an opinion
- identify ways to improve our writing

Success Criteria: I know I have been successful if I...

- can list elements of a successful series of paragraphs within the example provided
- have made a clear opinion statement that answers the question
- have included clear and specific examples to support my opinion
- have written a conclusion that summarizes the main ideas of my writing
- can identify and use “fix-up” or editing strategies to improve my writing
- ❖ Based on these goals what do you think we will be learning about today

Minds On

- **Task Type preview: students take one minute to skim and scan the writing prompt, “Are cellphones necessary in teenagers’ lives?” in your booklets.**
- Students answer the following questions and record them in the t-chart:
 - *What type of writing are you being asked to do in this task?*
 - *What are the key words in the task description that indicate how you should proceed? (length and format)*

Task-Type Preview: (Answer Key)

- **Writing Type and Related Strategies**
- Opinion Paragraphs
- Planning/ Using an organizer
- Making connections
- Determining Importance
- Introduction/Body/Conclusion
- **Key Words (length and format)**
- Minimum three paragraphs
- One opinion = one side of the argument
- Supporting details = proof, facts, examples
- Use all the space provided

Action:

1. Model for students by creating a **t-chart on the board in the *'rough notes' space below the writing prompt. Have the class brainstorm a short list of points that argue for and against the initial question. "Are cellphones necessary in teenagers lives?"***
2. Students remember that it is easier to write about only ONE side of the argument on the OSSLT. Be aware that your gut reaction may not always be the easiest to argue.
Just because you believe or may think that teenagers do need a cell phone, it may be easier or more effective to argue against this prompt. Therefore thinking through your points and how you will support them is critically important.

Action

3. In small groups or pairs, students fill in the organizer, Writing a Series of Paragraphs Expressing an Opinion for the OSSLT, based on the whole brainstorming. Remember that this type of planning will result in a better structured series of paragraphs. You will not have an organizer to use on the test, but this may be completed in the rough notes space provided to guide your thinking.

Action

4. Divide class groups into small groups of 3-4 people. In these groups first review the Topic Development Rubric. Next, have the groups compare the Code 30 sample and the Code 60 sample in their packages. Each group will make a list of suggestions or notes in the margins for how the Code 30 sample could be improved.
5. Each group will share their list. Record common class list of fix-up or editing strategies, students should copy them into their booklets in the space provided.
6. Review the **Tips for Writing a Series of Paragraphs Supporting an Opinion**

Action

7. Before you start your their individual practice task, remember students about the t-chart for developing their initial points, and that you should then use the rest of the *rough notes space to think through how you will support your points.*

8. Have students complete the Series of Opinion Paragraphs based on the prompt, ***“Is participation in extracurricular activities an important part of secondary school life?”***.

Circulate and encourage as students to use the ‘rough notes’ space to organize their thoughts prior to writing.

Additional At Home Support

In your package you will find **short writing task samples to complete on your own time.**

**Congrats on completing all 4 Lit Blitz sessions
don't forget the OSSLT Assembly is on
October 18th, and the OSSLT is October 20th.
Good Luck!!!!!!!!!!!!**