

WRITING BUDDY GROUPS: SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

Lesson written by Lisa Davison for News in Education, Chicago Tribune

The application of these writing activities for pairs or groups is described on "Second Grade Activities."

WRITE A FEATURE STORY ABOUT A PERSON. (It could be about your parent, brother/sister, writing buddy, etc.) Be sure to include basic facts about the life of the person, as well as interesting information about the person.

WRITE A REVIEW OF A TELEVISION SHOW, MOVIE OR STORY. A review should include the strengths and weaknesses as well as what you liked/disliked and why. Be descriptive and use examples.

WRITE TWO CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS SELLING TWO DIFFERENT ITEMS. You might want to sell a car, a baseball glove, a bike, etc. What will the reader want to see in order to buy your item? Keep in mind that these ads are short; every word counts!

WRITE A CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT FOR A JOB YOU WANT TO FILL. You must first think of a position (like teacher, lawyer, secretary, waiter, etc.) and what kinds of characteristics would make someone good at the job. Keep in mind that these ads are short; every word counts!

WRITE AN EDITORIAL SUPPORTING YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM OR ATHLETE. What makes this person or team worth supporting? What do you think is important in a sports team or an athlete?

WRITE AN EDITORIAL ON SOMETHING AT SCHOOL THAT YOU STRONGLY LIKE OR DISLIKE. Be sure to explain what the issue or policy is for those who don't attend your school and then give your reasons.

WRITE A NEWS STORY ON SOME EVENT HAPPENING AT SCHOOL OR IN YOUR COMMUNITY. Remember a news story should always address Who, What, Where, When, Why. You should attempt to give both sides of the story. Do not include your own opinion. Always address: Who, What, Where, When, Why.

CREATE AN ADVERTISEMENT THAT INVITES PEOPLE TO VISIT THE FREEDOM CENTER. How would you use photographs? How would you arrange the words and what would you say to get people to come to the Freedom Center? Use descriptive words.

CREATE AN ADVERTISEMENT THAT SAYS PEOPLE SHOULD WATCH THE SALT LAKE CITY OLYMPICS ON TELEVISION. How would you arrange photographs? What would be the attraction for watching the Olympics? Use descriptive words.

WRITE A NEWS STORY THAT TELLS WHAT IS HAPPENING IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY. Choose a country in today's paper and after reading the articles, write an article that describes the issue in that foreign country. You might also include the role of the United States. Always address: Who, What, Where, When, Why

WRITE A WEATHER REPORT USING CURRENT INFORMATION IN TODAY'S PAPER. Include predictions for temperature, rain, snow, etc.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR ON AN ISSUE IN THE EDITORIAL SECTION OF TODAY'S PAPER. Be sure to agree or disagree with the person writing the editorial, but you should explain why you agree or disagree.

WRITE A FEATURE STORY ABOUT YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL. Use descriptive words and give examples of what you like/dislike.