

In Common: Effective Writing for All Students Collection of All Student Work Samples, K-12

By The Vermont Writing Collaborative, with Student Achievement Partners and CCSSO

Second Grade On-Demand Informative / Explanatory Writing Samples

Grade 2, Prompt for Informative/Explanatory Writing Common Core Standard W.CCR.2

Directions should be read aloud and clarified by the teacher

Water Conservation

Student Directions Day 1

Today, you are going to get ready to write an informative piece to answer
this question:

What can you do to save water?

Day 1 *Get ready to write.*

- Watch the video, *The Adventures of EcoRilla*.
- Discuss this question briefly with your classmates: Why is it important to save water?
- Listen to the Reader's Theatre: *Water Wise-All About Water Conservation* carefully.
- What can you do to save water? Turn and talk to a partner about what you could do.

- Fold a piece of paper into quarters. Pick at least four things that you could do to save water. Draw a picture of each to show what you chose.

Water Conservation

Student Directions Day 2

Today, you are going to use what you have learned to write an informative piece to answer this question: **What can you do to save water?**

Day 2 *Write!*

- Listen to *Water Wise* again. Read along if you can.
 - What can you do to save water? Use the pictures you drew yesterday. Turn to a partner, point to a picture. Tell what you might do and **why** that would be a good choice.
- When you have finished, write a piece explaining what you can do to save water.
 - **What can you do to save water?**
 - Be sure to give lots of examples and explain how each would save water. Look back at *Water Wise* for ideas. Write as much as you can.

A good informative piece will:

- 5. Introduce the topic you are writing about**
- 6. Clearly answer the question.**
- 7. Give lots of examples.**
- 8. "Wrap up" the piece with a concluding sentence.**

9. Use capitals, periods and question marks, and spell words correctly.

When you have finished, be sure to check your work and fix any mistakes.

If you like, you may add pictures to show what you wrote. Have fun!

Grade 2 - Informative/Explanatory Writing Prompt

Teacher Directions

- Use the student prompt as directions for each session. The short video can be found on YouTube: Help the Environment -The Adventures of EcoRilla Episode 1 - EcoWater Canada http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ex1ZuKfw64. The video is recommended, but is optional.
- Provide each student with a copy of the prompt and the Reader's Theatre. The Reader's Theatre can be read aloud by the teacher or "performed" by older students or very competent readers. The teacher should feel comfortable rereading, explaining or clarifying directions as needed.
- The Reader's Theatre provides information that may be used to address the prompt and should be read aloud at least twice before writing. Encourage students to refer back to the text while writing. The teacher may provide help with reading words or phrases as needed.
- The prompt should be given two sessions. Allow approximately 30 minutes for each, but the prompt should not be strictly timed. Students should be given the time needed to write and proofread.

- The writing must be done without help, but students may have access to personal dictionaries, word walls or any other resources to support spelling and mechanics that they are accustomed to using while writing. Provide lined paper from your classroom for writing. Unlined paper may be provided for drawing.
- This will be first draft writing, but encourage students to proofread and correct any errors they find.

Water Wise

All About Water Conservation

A Super Science Script

Written and Developed by Lisa Blau

Water Expert #1 - Good morning! We are here to tell you all about the earth's most precious resource...

All - WATER!

Water Expert #2 - Every form of life needs water in order to live.

Water Expert #4 - A tiny fish needs water...

Water Expert #5 - A tall tree needs water...

Water Expert #3 - Everyone needs...

All - WATER!

Water Expert #2 - People need water to drink because our bodies need water to stay healthy.

Water Expert #3 - We also need water to make the crops grow so that we have food to eat.

Water Expert #4 - People use water for taking baths, brushing their teeth, and washing their clothes.

Water Expert #1 - Yes, everyone needs water.

Water Expert #2 - We know that water is precious so we must find ways to save all the water that we can.

Water Expert #3 - Now, you might be thinking...

Water Expert #5 - But, I'm just a kid. What can I do to save water?

Water Expert #4 - Well, we're here to tell you...

All - PLENTY!

Water Expert #1 - If you turn off the running water when you brush your teeth...

All - You can save 35 gallons of water in one week!

Water Expert #3 - If you take a shorter shower...

All - You can save 75 gallons of water in one week!

Water Expert #3 - You can help Mom or Dad fix leaky faucets and put water savers in your toilets.

Water Expert #5 - A plastic bottle filled with pebbles will do the job!

Water Expert #4 - Never play in sprinklers if your town is having a water shortage.

Water Expert #1 - Sure, it's tons of fun...

Water Expert #2 - You will use over 10 gallons of water in only one minute!

Water Expert #3 - By trying some of these tricks, you and your family can help save lots of water.

Water Expert #4 - Water is precious. What can you do to help save water?

Water Expert #1 - Make sure that the faucet is turned off all the way. Don't leave it dripping...

Water Expert #2 - Every drop counts you know!

Water Expert #3 - Don't use more water than you really need. You really don't need to fill your bathtub up all the way when you take a bath.

Water Expert #4 - You should use a broom...not the hose, to clean a driveway or sidewalk.

Water Expert #5 - And how many of you like to help out by washing the car? Well, be sure to save water when you wash the car.

Water Expert #2 - It's easy...just use a bucket to wash the car, and only use the hose to rinse it off.

All - We hope that you will be water wise and save lots of water. We know you can do it!

Water Expert #1 - The End.

From Super Science, by Lisa Blau
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File Name: I2P Water is Important

Informative/Explanatory

Grade 2

On-Demand Writing, Uniform Prompt

Water is Important

Water is important You should help save water. And I am going to tell you how. 1 way is TuRN OFF The SINK AFTER YOu BRuSH Your TEETH! Another way is ONLY FILL YOuR BATHTuB UP HALF WAY! Also water is important so you should TAKE A SHORT SHOWer. Also WHEN YOU WASH YOUR HANDS DON'T LEAVE THE WATER RUNNING! These are the ways why you should help save water

Introduces the topic and states a focus for the piece

Uses facts to develop points

Uses linking words and phrases to connect ideas

Provides a concluding statement that restates the focus

This second-grade informative/explanatory paragraph begins with an introductory sentence and then states the focus of the piece (*"You should help save water. And I am going to tell you how."*). Four facts, from provided sources, develop the piece and are linked to each other and to the main idea by transitional words and phrases (*"1 way"*, *"Another way"*, *"also"*). The piece concludes by restating the focus (*"These are the ways why you should help save water"*). At this grade level, sentences may be a bit "clunky," particularly as students experiment with unfamiliar academic constructions. If this were an instructional piece, *"These are the ways why..."* could be revised during the writing process.

File Name: I2P Water is Important

Informative/Explanatory

Grade 2

Revised and Edited for Student Use

Water is Important

Water is important. You should help save water, and I am going to tell you how. One way is to turn off the sink after you brush your teeth! Another way is to only fill your bathtub up halfway! Also, water is important, so you should take a short shower. Also, when you wash your hands, don't leave the water running! These are the ways you can help save water.

File Name: I2P Water is Important

Informative/Explanatory

Grade 2

On Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt

Water is Important

Water is important You should help save water. And I am going to tell you how. 1 way is TuRN OFF The SINK AFTER YOu BRuSH Your TEETH! Another way is ONLY FILL YOuR BATHTuB UP HALF WAY! Also water is important so you should TAKE A SHORT SHOWer. Also WHEN YOU WASH YOUR HANDS DON'T LEAVE THE WATER RUNNING! These are the ways why you should help save water