

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

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

### Fifth Grade On-Demand Informative / Explanatory Writing Samples

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**Grade 5 - Informative/Explanatory Writing Prompt****Teacher Directions**

- Use the student prompt as directions for each session. The short video can be found on YouTube: Water conservation tips-*How to Conserve Water at Home*  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MDLpVHY8LE>. The video is recommended, but is optional.
- Provide each student with a copy of the prompt and the article. The article should be read aloud while students read along silently.
- The article provides the information needed to address the prompt and should be read aloud at least twice before writing. Encourage students to refer back to the text while writing and to take notes.
- The prompt should be given in two sessions. Allow approximately 45 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, 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.
- This will be first draft writing, but encourage students to proofread and correct any errors they find.

Name:

## **Save Our Water!**

Did you know that kids can make a very important difference in saving the earth's water? They can! But first off, why do we even need to save water?

Water is a natural resource that we get from the Earth. Without it, we would not be able to live! Imagine a world with no water at all. You wouldn't be able to drink it, bathe, or swim! Without clean water, plants, animals, birds and ocean life would also be unable to live. Kids can help protect this resource. You make a huge difference simply by starting at home. To get an idea of how much water we could save if we all made a small effort, think about this. What if every person across the nation flushed their toilets one time less every day? Together they could save enough water to fill a lake as large as a mile wide and long and four feet in depth!

Now you know how important it is to help save water. Try some of the ideas below. Start doing your part to change our world!

### **Some Ways Kids Can Help to Save Water:**

- When you wash your hands, don't leave the water running. Wet your hands and turn the water off. Use soap and lather your hands well. Then turn the water on to rinse. Turn off the water and make sure it is off completely. Then dry your hands.
- Do the same when you brush your teeth. Turn the faucet on to get your toothbrush and toothpaste wet. Turn it on again to rinse your mouth and toothbrush. Don't leave the water running while you're brushing.
- Baths use a lot of water (about 37 gallons on average). Take short showers, and use only about 20 gallons of water, instead.
- Do you have plants in your house? When vegetables or other fresh produce are washed, collect that water and use it to water the plants.
- Do you like a drink of cold water now and then? Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator. That way you don't have to run the water to get it cold.
- Put a barrel outdoors to catch rain water. Then use that water for things like watering plants or flushing toilets. You can save hundreds of gallons of water a year!
- In the summertime, it's fun to play under the lawn sprinkler. When you do, make sure it's only when the lawn is being watered.
- Remind the others in your home, and your friends, not to leave any faucet running. Only use what is truly needed!
- Is there a leaky faucet or toilet in the bathroom at school? Be sure to let someone know so that it can be repaired.

Even if you do just one thing each day to contribute to your home's water conservation, you're doing the right thing!

Adapted from *Water Conservation for Kids*

TheWaterPage.com

<http://www.thewaterpage.com/water-conservation-kids.htm>

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**File Name: ISP Saving Water**

**Informative/Explanatory**

**Grade 5**

**On-Demand Writing, Uniform Prompt**

### **Saving Water**

Did you know that you can save your homes water by just by doing things each day? You can put a bucket outside to catch rainwater or use wipes to wash tables instead of water. There are many ways to save water, you can do things outside and inside to help save water. Here are some ideas.

**Introduces the topic clearly**

**Provides a general observation and focus**

There are many things to do inside your house to help save water. You can change your toilet, facet, and shower head to low flow. Also, you can take small, short showers instead of baths. you can turn off the facet when brushing your teeth and when lathering soap in your hands. When waiting for water to warm up save the water and reuse. over all there are alot of things you can do inside to save your homes water.

**Uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to explain the topic**

There are many things to do outside your house to help save water. First you can go to an automated carwash or use a waterless car wash. When you do a car wash at home you waste more water. Also you can dump out your water bottle on plants and grass insted of dumping it down the drain. Reuse water outside as much as possible. You can also put a bucket of water outside to catch rainwater and use for watering plants or grass. Over all there are alot of ways to save water outside of your house.

**Develops the topic with facts, concrete details, and other**

**information and examples related to the topic**

**Links ideas within categories of information using words and phrases**

There are many ways to save your homes water outside and inside. Kids and adults can make a big difference to save water. Imagine if everyone in the cantry

**Provides a concluding section related**

**to the explanation presented**

turned of the facet when brushing thier teeth, we could save enogh water to refill a lake! Over all it is important to save water inside and outside your house.

This fifth-grade piece introduces the topic clearly by providing a general observation and focus. The writer shows a developing awareness of purpose and audience, beginning with a question (*"Did you know...?"*) and concluding with a precise and striking image (*"we could save enogh water to refill a lake!"*) that serves to encourage the reader to take action. The clear sentence structure and familiar vocabulary is appropriate for a general audience.

The piece is well-organized. Facts and concrete details from the source have been regrouped logically into two broad categories: things you can do inside to save water and things you can do outside. Linking words and phrases (*"also", "instead of", "when", "first", "overall"*) show the relationship between ideas and allow the writer to smoothly elaborate using examples and concrete details. The structure of the essay (introduction, body, conclusion), as well as the structure within each paragraph (topic sentence, details, concluding sentence), create cohesion and make the thinking in the piece easy to follow.

**File Name: ISP Saving Water**

**Informative/Explanatory**

**Grade 5**

**Revised and Edited for Student Use**

### **Saving Water**

Did you know that you can save your home's water just by doing things each day? You can put a bucket outside to catch rainwater or use wipes to wash tables instead of water. There are many ways to save water. You can do things outside and inside to help save water. Here are some ideas.

There are many things to do inside your house to help save water. You can change your toilet, faucet, and showerhead to low flow. Also, you can take small, short showers instead of baths. You can turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth and when lathering soap in your hands. When waiting for water to warm up, save the water and reuse. Over all, there are a lot of things you can do inside to save your home's water.

There are many things to do outside your house to help save water. First you can go to an automated carwash or use a waterless car wash. When you do a car wash at home, you waste more water. Also you can dump out your water bottle on plants and grass instead of dumping it down the drain. Reuse water outside as much as possible. You can also put a bucket of water outside to catch rainwater and use for watering plants or grass. Overall, there are a lot of ways to save water outside of your house.

There are many ways to save your home's water outside and inside. Kids and adults can make a big difference in saving water. Imagine if everyone in the country turned off the faucet when brushing their teeth. We could save enough water to refill a lake! Overall, it is important to save water inside and outside your house.



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**Informative/Explanatory**

**Grade 5**

**On Demand Writing- Uniform Prompt**

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