

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
Range of Writing Opinion Writing Samples

File name: O2R Chocolate Milk

Opinion/Argument

Grade 2

Range of Writing

Persuasive Essay

Our class is learning about nutrition and what is in our food that our body needs. We've also been looking at nutrition labels to help us make healthy food choices. Our school lunchroom offers students the choice of chocolate milk or white milk.

Using what you have learned to support your opinion, should Edmunds Elementary School serve chocolate milk? Write a letter to Mr. Davis, the head of Food Service, to explain your position.

The assignment **introduces the topic** for writing. The piece could be improved with an introductory sentence that provided some context.

Dear Mr. Davis,

States an opinion

you should serve chocolate milk because. It has 0% fat just like 0% fat white milk. Another reason is some kids will only drink chocolate Milk Another reason is. they Both have the same amount of protein (8 grams) and calcium. protein Gives you energy calcium makes your bones stronger. chocolate milk is still really healthy even though it has chocolate in it.

Uses linking words to connect opinion and reasons

Supplies reasons that support the opinion

Provides a concluding statement

In this second-grade opinion piece, the writer uses information learned in a nutrition unit to argue that chocolate milk should be served in the school cafeteria. The writer's opinion is clearly stated and is supported by facts (*"it has 0% fat"*) and reasons (*"some kids will only drink chocolate Milk"*). Linking words and phrases (*"because"*, *"another reason"*) connect the opinion with the reasons given. The concluding statement sums up the opinion piece for the reader. This second grader has not yet learned to use commas, and the attempt to use periods instead can make the piece a bit confusing. This misunderstanding could easily be addressed on a second draft.

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Revised and Edited for Student Use

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Using what you have learned to support your opinion, should Edmunds Elementary School serve chocolate milk? Write a letter to Mr. Davis, the head of Food Service, to explain your position.

Dear Mr. Davis:

You should serve chocolate milk because it has 0% fat just like 0% fat white milk. Another reason is some kids will only drink chocolate milk. Another reason is both kinds of milk have the same amount of protein (8 grams) and calcium. Protein gives you energy, and calcium makes your bones stronger. Chocolate milk is still really healthy even though it has chocolate in it.

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File name: O2R Thomas Edison

Opinion/Argument

Grade 2

Range of Writing

Response to Literature

We've been reading, thinking, and talking about *Biographies*. We've read about many famous scientists, artists, musicians, inventors, leaders, etc. Who do you think is the most important person that we have read about? Be sure to support your opinion using evidence of how this person has made a significant contribution to society and/or changed the world and impacted your life.

States an opinion

Thomas Edison

Introduces the topic or book he or she is writing about

Uses linking words to connect opinion and reasons

I think that Thomas alva Edison is the most inportant preson that we
read about because he invented the electrick light bolb. back a long time ago
we did not have the electrick light bolb. we had candle's. If we did not have
the electrick light bolb we would have more fire's, it would be a lot darcker
then it is with the electrick light bolb now would kid's do Home work in the
dark how would we ge around at night

Supplies reasons that support the opinion

if thomas alva Edison never lived what do you think it would be like
with only candles for light how would it feel what would it be like without the
electrick light bolb what would it be live without thomas alva Edison.

Provides a concluding section

This second-grade opinion piece was done independently as the culminating activity in a unit on biographies. The writer states an opinion (*“I think that Thomas alva Edison is the most inportant preson”*) and provides needed context (*“that we read about”*) in a single sentence. After stating the main idea of the piece, the writer works to establish the importance of Edison’s invention by providing reasons and examples (*“we would have more fire’s”, “it would be a lot darcker”, “now would kid’s do Home work in the dark”*). The writer uses linking words (*“because”, “if”*) to connect the opinion to reasons. The concluding section very effectively supports the writer’s opinion by inviting the reader to reflect on the effect Edison’s work has had on our lives (*“if thomas alva Edison never lived what do you think it would be like...”*).

File name: O2R Thomas Edison

Opinion/Argument

Grade 2

Revised and Edited for Student Use

Response to Literature

We've been reading, thinking, and talking about *Biographies*. We've read about many famous scientists, artists, musicians, inventors, leaders, etc.

Who do you think is the most important person that we have read about?

Be sure to support your opinion using evidence of how this person has made a significant contribution to society and/or changed the world and impacted your life.

Thomas Edison

I think that Thomas Alva Edison is the most important person that we read about because he invented the electric light bulb. Back a long time ago, we did not have the electric light bulb. We had candles. If we did not have the electric light bulb, we would have more fires. It would be a lot darker than it is with the electric light bulb. How would kids do homework in the dark? How would we get around at night?

If Thomas Alva Edison never lived, what do you think it would be like?

With only candles for light, how would it feel? What would it be like without the electric light bulb? What would it be like without Thomas Alva Edison?

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Opinion/Argument

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Thomas Edison

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with only candles for light how would it feel what would it be like without the
electrick light bolb what would it be live without thomas alva Edison.