Opinion Writing
Happy Something Day

Objectives & Common Core Connections

* Introduce the topic for a selected audience.
* Focus on the purpose of opinion writing.
* State an opinion about the topic.
* Develop a list of reasons to support the opinion.
* Organize the information.
* Use linking words to connect the reasons and opinion.
* Write a paragraph that expresses an opinion.

Introduction Provide each student with a copy of the writing frame (page 21). Read the title and first lines. Have students study the illustrations and captions. Explain that they will be writing a paragraph in which they express an opinion about a holiday they make up. Tell students that their audience or readers will be other members of the class.

Model Talk about how a writer might engage the class audience by using a friendly, conversational approach in introducing the topic with an opinion. For example:

* You'll want to celebrate Smile Day every day.

Remind students that once a writer offers an opinion, he or she should give reasons to support it. Invite students to suggest possible reasons to support the opinion about Smile Day. For example:

* you feel good
* make more friends
* easier to get things done
* others feel cheerful

Point out that a writer organizes information in a logical way to help the reader. Guide students in grouping these reasons together and then developing them into sentences. For instance, the first two sentences below are about feelings that smiles produce, while the third and fourth sentences are about outcomes of smiling. Model how ideas can be connected with linking words, such as *in addition* or *for instance*. For example:

* Smiling makes you feel good.
* It makes others feel cheerful, too.
* Smiles make it easier to get things done.
* For instance, it's easier to make friends if you smile at people.

Guided Practice Have students complete the writing frame. Encourage them to use their own wording and sentence structure. If students wish to support the Learn Something New Day instead, help them develop reasons to back their opinion.

Review Invite volunteers to read their finished paragraphs to the class. Have listeners use items 1–7 and 9 on the assessment checklist (page 62) to evaluate the effectiveness of other students' work.

Independent Practice Use the On Your Own activity (page 22) as homework or review. Encourage students to use what they have learned in the lesson to complete the assignment. Explain that they can choose a holiday from the Idea Box or make up one of their own.

Name _____ Date _____

Happy Something Day

You are going to make up a holiday.
What day would you like to celebrate?

Smile Day

Learn
Something
New Day

- Introduce the topic with your audience in mind.
  Remember to focus on your writing purpose.
- State your opinion and give reasons to support it.
- Organize your reasons.
- List linking words you might use.
- Write your paragraph on another sheet of paper.

Topic _____

Audience _____

Opinion _____

_____

Supporting Reasons _____

_____

_____

_____

Organizing Information

Group 1 _____

_____

_____

Group 2 _____

_____
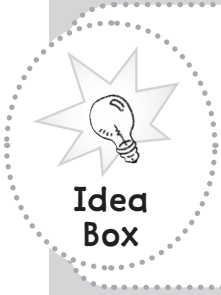
_____

Possible Linking Words _____

Name _____ Date _____

On Your Own

What holiday would you like to celebrate? Choose a holiday from the Idea Box or think of one of your own. Complete this page. Then, write a paragraph on another sheet of paper to persuade your classmates to agree with you.

Idea Box

○ Help Others Day

○ Read a Book Day

○ Play a Sport Day

○ My Idea: _____

_____

_____

Topic _____

Audience _____

Opinion _____

_____

Supporting Reasons _____

_____

_____

_____

Organizing Information

Group 1 _____

_____

_____

Group 2 _____

_____

_____

Possible Linking Words _____

Student Assessment Checklist
Opinion Writing

1. Introduced the topic. .... ☐

2. Focused on the writing purpose. .... ☐

3. Stated an opinion. .... ☐

4. Developed and presented reasons, facts, and/or details
to support an opinion. .... ☐

5. Organized the reasons, facts, and/or details
in a logical order. .... ☐

6. Connected the reasons and opinion with linking words. .... ☐

7. Addressed the audience appropriately. .... ☐

8. Provided a concluding sentence. .... ☐

9. Wrote a paragraph that offers an opinion. .... ☐

More Things to Check

● Capitalized proper nouns. ☐

● Capitalized the first word of sentences. ☐

● Used correct punctuation. ☐

● Spelled words correctly. ☐

● Followed correct paragraph form. ☐