**“Going Green” Research and Opinion Writing**

Terrace Town Writing Lesson – For after the students have set up their city and viewed the other cities.

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**Objectives:**

Students will observe and record ways other schools incorporated the “Going Green” theme into their cities.

Students will learn about and talk about the new ideas to go green.

Students will choose one idea they wish we had incorporated into our city and write an opinion paper about why that idea should be added to our city.

**Standards:**

W.2.1 Write opinion pieces with reasons., using linking words to connect opinion and reasons.

W.2.2  Use facts and definitions to develop points.

**Build Background Knowledge**

Begin each writing lesson with a short YouTube video related to our theme (or use during Morning Meeting or other part of the day)

Here are some great videos that give background knowledge on green ideas:

<https://www.ted.com/talks/birke_baehr_what_s_wrong_with_our_food_system?language=en>

<http://youtu.be/f-v_LHzITbk> Madison Children’s Museum (about 5 minutes)

(2min) Video about sustainability: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gTamnlXbgqc>

(2min)Video about Wind Farms: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=niZ_cvu9Fts>

(2min)Video about Solar Energy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDZzAIcCQLQ>

Boy Who Harnessed the Wind YouTube video:  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=arD374MFk4w>

**Writing Lessons:**

**Day 1 Learning Target:** I can use my research notes so that I can have a conversation about new ways cities go green.

Show slideshow of Terrace Town. Then have student look over their notes and brainstorm ideas we should add to our city to make it greener.

Make an anchor chart of ideas, discussing them so that students understand the ideas.

Have students share with partners or small groups the one thing they wish we could have added to make our Terrace Town city greener.

Share out.

Sentence stem: **I would add \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Day 2 Learning Target:** I can provide reasons so that I can support my opinion.

Partner share...brainstorm with a partner, reasons for going green.

Share out and create an anchor chart

Model how to choose ideas from the anchor chart that support your topic

Share out their idea and 3 reasons

Sentence Stem: **I would add \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Here are some ideas to have ready for your chart…

Reasons for Going Green (Lesson 2)

* Save money
* Use less energy
* Make things last longer
* Reduce pollution
* Improve your health
* Makes you be creative - think of new ways to reduce, reuse and recycle as well as ways to use land space
* Better/cleaner air
* Helps you to be self-sufficient (take care of yourself)
* Helps others (small business) in your community (ex: buying local)
* Saves rainforests / plant and animal species
* Reduces waste
* Attracts customers/community members/visitors (ex: green restaurant)
* More efficient
* Allows landfills to fill at a slower rate
* Gives community something to be proud of

**Day 3 Learning Target:** I can list my supporting reasons so that I can create a draft.

Model:  How to choose reasons that support your topic and how to put it in a sentence using connecting words. Model how you use the research you’ve done (read alouds, videos, etc) to write facts about the topic.

Have students write a first draft of their topic and supporting reasons. (Introduction and Conclusion are covered in the next lesson)

**Day 4 Learning Target:** I can write an introduction so that I can state my opinion.

Provide sentence stems for students to choose from

* In my opinion, we should add \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to make our city green.
* I think \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ would help make our city green.
* One way to make our city green is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Other suggestions

Model:  Choose one intro sentence stem and write it on your draft. Include a definition in the next sentence if needed. (Example: In my opinion, we should add Maglev trains to make our city green. Maglev trains are high speed trains that float on magnets.)

Partner Share...choose a sentence stem and have them practice saying it

Share as a whole group

Have the students write their introduction.

**Day 5 Learning Target:** I can write a conclusion so that I can restate my opinion.

Provide sentence stems for students to choose from (choose a different way than the intro)

* In conclusion, we should add \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to make our city green.
* I think \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ would help make our city green.
* In conclusion, one way to make our city green is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* In conclusion \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will make our city green.
* Other suggestions

Model:  Choose one intro sentence stem and use it

Partner Share...choose a sentence stem and have them practice saying it

Share as a whole group

Have the students write their conclusion.

**Day 6 Learning Target:** I can revise and edit my writing to make it better and make it correct.

Model use of the checklist.

Have students revise and edit their draft.

**Day 7 Learning Target:** I can use my draft to create a paragraph for my final draft.

Model using the draft to create a paragraph.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Terrace Town Going Green Research**

**Look for ways cities are “going green”.**

**Draw and write about what you noticed. Make sure to include details.**

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Terrace Town Opinion Writing Checklist

Title /Topic\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Author’s name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Revise

* I have an introduction.
* I explained my topic.
* I wrote 3 reasons to support my opinion.
* I used transition words: next, because, so that, another, etc.
* I read my whole draft over again to hear how it sounds.
* I have a conclusion.

Edit

* I spelled common words correctly
* I used the MY TRY book for hard words.
* I have CAPITAL letters in the right places.
* I used periods and punctuation. . , “” ! ?
* All the words in my title begin with CAPITAL letters.