



The goal of the Families and Literacy Committee of the WSRA is to develop and carry out plans which convey to parents the value of involvement in reading activities with children.

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Family Reading Fun

In this issue the focus is on the Writing standards, a part of the Wisconsin Academic Standards. Listed below you will find Writing Standard #1 and what it looks like at a kindergarten, fourth grade, seventh grade and high school level. The standard is as follows:

Writing Standard 1

K-Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose opinion pieces in which they tell a reader the topic or the name of the book they are writing about and state an opinion or preference about the topic or book (e.g., *My favorite book is...*).

4-Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

7-Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

11-12- Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

These standards address the skill of forming an opinion and supporting that opinion with evidence. Children of all ages have opinions on just about everything! Capitalize on this and get your child talking about the reasons why he or she feels this way.

Literacy Tips

For the young reader: Have your child try a new food at dinner. Did he or she like it? Why or why not? Now have your child pretend to be a food critic and give a review on the food item. Draw pictures, make a poster, write a paragraph, etc. Have fun with it.

For the teen reader: After purchasing an item on Amazon or other on line retailer, have your child read the reviews for the item and write his or her own review. Be sure your child states his or her opinion of the product and supports his or her opinion with specific examples.

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Author Spotlight



Reading a great book or magazine can be the perfect starting point for writing opinion. Check out the following author and magazines for books to introduce your child to opinion writing.

Mo Willems

Award winning author and illustrator Mo Willems began his career as a writer and animator for Sesame Street. He began writing and illustrating books for his children, which has resulted in numerous children's books loved by many. His debut book, Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus became a New York Times bestseller. After reading this book, discuss the idea with your child. Should the Pigeon drive the bus? Why or why not? Check out more Pigeon books at Mo's website www.mowillems.com

Various Magazines

Magazines can be a great tool to help your child begin to form opinions on various topics. Magazines such as *Time for Kids*, have a Debate Section in each issue. Read through these sections. Discuss the listed pros and cons. Have your child add any pros and cons he or she may think of. After reviewing the pros and cons have your child form and support his or her opinion. Other magazines that may lend themselves to forming opinions are *Boy's Life* and *American Girl*. See if these periodicals are available at your local library.

To see the Wisconsin Academic Standards go to www.dpi.wi.gov/ela/standards

Website Spotlight

Are you looking for more ideas on how to help your child develop his or her writing skills? Check out www.readingrockets.org Go to the Teachers, Parents and Others tab. Scroll down to The Common Core. Then click on Supporting Common Core Writing Standards.

****Look for our Jan. issue when we focus on Reading Foundation Standards****



