



“I’m ready for a pet!”  
Persuasive Letter

It seems that most kids either have a cat or dog, or dream of owning one. This prompt is an opportunity for them to try to convince their parents to get them one!

NOTE: This lesson can address the following Common Core Standards: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.1, W.1.1, W.2.1, W.3.1, W.4.1, W.5.1, L.1.2.A, L.1.2.C, L.2.2.A, L.2.2.B, L.3.2.B

Now for the lesson!

1. Tell the students the storyline: “You’re going to write a letter to your mom, dad, grandma, grandpa etc., persuading him/her/them that you are responsible and ready to own a pet.”
2. Brainstorm ideas: “What are some things that you can say to prove you are ready?” (Examples, I understand commitment, I understand responsibility, I understand cost...)
3. Show the 5 Sections:

Date/Greeting/Introduction  
Reason 1  
Reason 2  
Reason 3  
Conclusion/Salutation/Name

Remember: K-1<sup>st</sup> Graders are encouraged to write 1 sentence for each section,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Graders 2 sentences, 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders 3 sentences and so on.

Now to write!

Guide the students through the following steps so their story is organized and complete. They are free to write these ideas in their own words.

4. Write the date on the 1<sup>st</sup> line on the right side of the page.
5. Skip a line.
6. Write the greeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> line, left side (Capital letters and a comma).
7. Skip a line.
8. Write the introductory statement on the next line stating the main idea of the letter. “In your own words, write, ‘I’m ready to take care of a pet.’”
9. Write the first reason and explain it.
10. Write the second reason and explain it.
11. Write the third reason and explain it.
12. Write the conclusion that restates the main idea.
13. Write the salutation under the body of the letter and centered.
14. Write your name UNDER the salutation.