



SNOW JOURNAL



Whether kids pick strawberries or not, they most likely have something to say about them. This lesson gives them an opportunity to do so!

NOTE: This lesson can address the following Common Core State Standards: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.1, W.1.1, W.2.1, W.3.1, W.4.1, W.5.1, W.K.3, W.1.3, W.2.3, W.3.3, W.4.3, W.5.3, L.1.2.A, L.1.2.C and L.2.2.B.

Now for the steps:

1. First, tell the story line: *"You're going to write your honest thoughts about strawberries and strawberry picking."*

Explain to the students that a journal is a great place to jot down your most honest feelings; excitement, frustration, disappointment, angst, fear, anger, humor, etc.

2. Discuss different opinions that students might have about strawberries:
Love them. Hate them. Strawberry picking is fun. Strawberry picking is senseless when you can buy them in the store. Strawberry jam, pie, bread, etc. are great or horrible!

Give students time to gather their thoughts and experiences about strawberries.

3. Show the 5 sections:
 - a. Date/Greeting/Introduction
 - b. Opinion about Strawberries
 - c. Picking vs. Store Bought
 - d. A Short story
 - e. Conclusion/Salutation

4. Show the expectations:

K-1st Graders are encouraged to write 1 sentence for each section, 2nd Graders-2 sentences, 3rd Graders-3 sentences. 4th Graders-4 sentences, 5th Graders-5 sentences

Now to write!

Guide the students through the following steps. There's a 2nd Grade example for your own guidance.

1. On the first line, right side, write the date.
2. Skip a line.
3. On the third line, left side, write the greeting, *Dear Journal,*
4. Skip a line.
5. On the 5th line, left side, write an introduction using 1-2 sentences:

I love strawberries. They're my favorite fruit! OR, I'm so tired of strawberries! My family brings home baskets full every year.

6. Describe strawberries. Tell the students that this section can focus on positive or negative aspects of strawberries.



Strawberries are juicy and sweet. They taste so good!

OR

Strawberries are sour and squishy. They stain my clothes, too!

7. Write about picking strawberries versus buying them in the store. Tell the students that this section can focus on positive or negative aspects of picking or buying strawberries.

Picking strawberries is so much fun. You get to fill your basket and eat some along the way!

OR

Picking strawberries is hard work! Why do people do it?

8. Tell a short story about a time you went strawberry picking or ate strawberries.

This year, we made strawberry soup with our strawberries. I put it on everything!

OR

Last year, I didn't want to eat the strawberry that my mom gave me, so I put it in my pocket. When, I got home there was a huge red spot in my shorts!

9. Write a conclusion using 1-2 sentences:

I can't wait to go strawberry picking again next year! Maybe, I'll try growing my own strawberries in my back yard.

OR

I really, really, really don't like strawberries. Can I just have blueberries, please?

10. Under the conclusion and in the center of the paper write the salutation: (Your Friend,)

11. **Under** the salutation write your name.

12. Add an easy art accent: Students can draw and color strawberries around the border of their writing.