



## 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-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. 4<sup>th</sup> Graders-4 sentences, 5<sup>th</sup> Graders-5 sentences

Now to write!

Guide the students through the following steps. There's a 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.