

**LESSON:** Persuasive Letter**Grade Level:** 2nd**OBJECTIVES:** Children will:

- Write persuasive letters to school, local or state decision makers
- Demonstrate knowledge of the difference between opinion and fact
- Use details to persuade decision makers of their point of view
- Write an opinion piece in which they introduce the topic, state an opinion, supply reasons that support the opinion, use linking words (e.g., because, and, also) to connect opinion and reasons, and provide a concluding statement or section. (Literacy)

**MATERIALS:**

- Computers with MS Word or other word processing program
- Printer
- Paper
- Envelopes

**PRESENTATION:**

Remind students of the books they read in the Jigsaw activity. Ask them some of these questions—

- What messages did you get from the books?
- Do you have opinions about any of those messages?
- What facts do you know about the topics?
- What facts do you need to learn about the topic in order to convince others of your opinion?
- Who are some people who might be able to do something about the problems you have opinions about?

Tell the class that they are going to take the next hour to research a topic for a letter. They get to write a letter to convince any decision maker they choose of whatever opinion they want.

Read and show them some examples of persuasive letters.

**DIRECTIONS:**

Use the OREO graphic organizer to teach persuasive writing—

- stands for opinion
- R stands for reasons
- E stands for explanation
- O stands for restating the opinion again

Do several graphic organizers as a class, then have the kids complete a few on their own. Have them choose the one they like best and write their letter based on that OREO graphic organizer.

You can use Charlotte's Web to kick this activity off. Watch the movie, and then complete the organizer on the board. Use Fern persuading her dad to keep Wilbur or Charlotte persuading them not to kill Wilbur, either one will work.

**TIME:**

1 hour

### OREO Graphic Organizer

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  <p><b>Opinion:</b></p>       |  <p><b>Reasons:</b></p>           |
|  <p><b>Explanation:</b></p> |  <p><b>Restate Opinion:</b></p> |