

**LESSON: Persuasive Letter****GRADE: 2****OBJECTIVES:**

Student 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.

**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 about which you have opinions?

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:**

1. Use the OREO graphic organizer to teach persuasive writing—
  - O stands for opinion
  - R stands for reasons
  - E stands for explanation
  - O stands for restating the opinion again
2. Do several graphic organizers as a class
3. Have the kids complete a few organizers on their own. Have them choose the one they like best and write their letter based on that OREO graphic organizer.
4. You can use Charlotte's Web to kick off this activity. Watch the movie, and then complete the organizer on the board. Use the scene in which Fern is persuading her dad to keep Wilbur or the one in which Charlotte is persuading them not to kill Wilbur, either one will work.

**TIME:** 60 minutes

## PROCESSING THROUGH THE SIX PILLARS

Lesson: Persuasive Letter

### WHAT:

- Introduce the concept of stakeholders. When we talk about stakeholders, we are talking about the pillar of responsibility. A stakeholder is anyone who might hold you up or support you and has a stake in your position.
- Ask the students, "Who will care?"  
Who will care if you show up late for the game? Have students stand as they call out the stakeholders (umpires, teammates, fans, the next team, etc...)  
Who will care if you chose never to recycle anything?  
Who will care if you don't do your homework?

### SO WHAT:

- Who are the stakeholders who care about your opinion or have a stake in your position?
- Who are the people who care and may be able to help you?

### NOW WHAT:

- Consider the stakeholders as you write your persuasive letter.
- CLOSURE: Here's a little ditty, which encapsulates the responsibility pillar that you can use as an echo poem or sing to the tune "Where is Thumbkin?"

What's Responsibility?  
Staying in control of me!  
Doin' more chores faithfully,  
Makin' choices carefully,  
Thinkin' about the stakeholders.  
Thinkin' about the consequences.  
You can count on me-  
Responsibility!

*This lesson is from Barbara Gruener, counselor at Westwood Elementary School, Friendswood, TX. [www.charactercounts.org/lessonbank](http://www.charactercounts.org/lessonbank)*