

Title: Explain Your Vote!

Subject: Language Arts/Writing

Grade Level: 3rd – 8th

Time: 20 minutes – 1 hour depending on student involvement

Objective:

Students will communicate their ideas and demonstrate their reasoning skills through writing.

Method:

Students will have a chance to increase their vote's weight in the Cast Your Vote poll by writing well-developed expository writing samples and submitting them to The Wilderness Classroom. Writing samples will be evaluated on the attached rubric. Students can use the attached worksheet, Explain Your Vote! as a guide to writing their essays and submitting them. Students may work in pairs, small groups, or individually.

Find this week's Cast Your Vote, have students complete the Explain Your Vote! Worksheet, and write their essay based on it. *Responses need to be submitted via the online form at the bottom of the Cast Your Vote! page no later than 3:00 PM CST on Thursday!*

Common Core State Anchor Standards:

Key Ideas and Details

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

Craft and Structure

4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

Explain Your Vote! You Decide!

Do you want your vote in this week's Cast Your Vote to count more than others? You have the chance to make your vote count 10 times more! **You** could determine exactly what the team does next week!

Write an expository essay on why you think the team should listen to your advice. We really do rely on your help to guide us safely and decide what we should focus on. We need to make sure that the decisions you are making for us are well-thought out and show that you're working with us!

One of the best ways to make your ideas count is by writing to us. You can use this worksheet to help organize your essay. Make sure that your essay is well written, spelled correctly, and uses proper punctuation.

1. What is the decision that needs to be made?

2. Why does this decision need to be made for the team?

- a. Logistical – they need to know where to go
- b. Focus – they need to find out a what to focus their time and effort studying
- c. Operational – the team needs to find out a better way to do something
- d. Ecological/ Moral – the team has a chance to help the environment or people

3. What are the choices that are available? (Some weeks have more options than others – only fill out what is necessary)

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

4. What is positive about each option?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

5. What might be negative about each option?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

6. Fill in the chart to help you organize your thoughts.

	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
Why I like this option				
Why I don't like this option				

7. My thesis statement is going to be...

8. The topic sentence for Paragraph 2 is going to be...

9. The topic sentence for Paragraph 3 is going to be...

10. The topic sentence for Paragraph 4 is going to be...

11. My conclusion statement is going to be....

12. Fill out the chart to help develop support for your ideas

	Paragraph 2	Paragraph 3	Paragraph 4
Supporting Detail #1			
Supporting Detail #2			
Supporting Detail #3			

Submit your Essay to The Wilderness Classroom Team!
Essays need to be posted no later than **Thursday at 3:00 PM!**
Copy and paste your essay into the form at the bottom of the Cast Your Vote page.
Don't forget to vote too!

Please use proper spelling and grammar!

Explain Your Vote! Scoring Rubric

Score	Criteria
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Writer demonstrates understanding of the problem that needs to be solved ▪ Writer clearly uses information from Cast Your Vote! or the Dave's Dilemma to make their decision ▪ Thesis statement is clear ▪ Topic Sentences are clearly written and follow a logical sequence ▪ Writer gives three or more details to support their opinion ▪ Essay is easy to read and information is presented logically ▪ Concluding statement is clear and logically connects to the rest of the essay ▪ Spelling and punctuation is accurate
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Writer demonstrates understanding of the problem that needs to be solved ▪ Thesis statement is clear ▪ Each paragraph has a clear topic sentence ▪ Writer gives two details to support their opinion ▪ Essay is relatively easy to read and their idea is clearly presented ▪ Concluding statement present ▪ One or two punctuation errors
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Writer identifies the problem that needs to be solved ▪ Thesis statement present ▪ Most paragraphs have a topic sentence ▪ Writer gives one supporting detail ▪ Essays sequence is confusing ▪ Somewhat difficult to follow and understand ▪ A few spelling and punctuation errors
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Problem is not addressed, but opinion is clear and present ▪ Thesis statement is unclear, but present ▪ Essay does not demonstrate organization (i.e. no paragraphs or logical order demonstrated) ▪ No supporting details present in essay. ▪ Essay is difficult to read and follow ▪ Frequent spelling and grammar errors
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Essay lacks organization ▪ No supporting details present ▪ No thesis statement present ▪ Opinion not made clear

Score of 4 = 10 votes

Score of 3 = 8 votes

Score of 2 = 5 votes

Score of 2 = 3 votes

Score of 2 = 2 votes

Score of 0 = 1 vote