Grade 2 Opinion Writing
Standard W.2.1

Grade 2 Opinion

W.2.1 Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or book they are writing about, 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.

The Reading/Thinking/Writing Task

Students were immersed in a multi-week biography unit reading about famous people from different disciplines. The students listened to texts read aloud, read other texts independently during reading groups, and then worked with the Focusing Question "*Who do you think is the most important person we have read about*?"

This question requires that students evaluate the list of famous scientists, activists, authors, artists, and more, and choose the one they believe is the most important, the one who contributed the most to society, and then to support their choice with evidence from the text and other various resources provided and shared.

Note: Some of the pieces in this set did not originally have titles. Each was given a basic title for ease of reference.

Focus of the Writing Task

Who do you think is the most important person we have read about?

The Writing Task in the Curriculum

How is it embedded in curriculum/content?

- *Class: 2nd grade ELA curriculum*

- *Curriculum unit*
  - students studied a variety of famous men and women from around the world and evaluated which one they thought made the biggest impact on the lives of others
  - emphasis on evaluating and providing evidence to support their opinion

- *Standards*
  - Reading: RI.2.1, RI.2.5 RI.2.6, RI.2.10
  - Writing: W.2.1, W.2.8, W.2.10

How did students build the knowledge they needed?

- *Texts*
  - a variety of biographies were read aloud and read instructionally as part of reading groups
  - charts of famous people with notes about their accomplishments

- *Reading and re-reading*
  - teacher read texts aloud
  - students read and re-read texts independently and instructionally
  - students took notes on texts using common graphic organizers

What instructional approaches were used to teach writing?

- *Craft lessons*
  - students were just beginning to be introduced to basic expository structures (Painted Essay® in many forms and more) including such elements as introductions, grouping related information together, linking words, and conclusions

- *Writing approaches*
  - students were reminded of the elements that make up a strong essay in the directions. They then wrote and proofread independently.

What was the timeframe?
Long (3-4 weeks)

Louis Pasteur

We have been reading biographies. I think Louis Pasteor is the most important person we have read about. Louis Pasteor is a famous scientist. I think Louis Pasteor is thi most important person we have read about because he created a vacine for rabies. Also he made milk safe to drink by making boylers and the bad bacteria couldnend serviv the heat and then the milk is safe to drink. This is called Pasteriazshin. Thanks to Louis Pasteor people can stay safe from rabies and milk is safe to drink.

Rachel Carson

Weve been reading about biographies. I think Rachel Carson is the most inpotin prson because

she stoped DDt for herting the wold and animal's. naw pepal no they shod not spray it because it

hrat the animal's.

The Wright Brothers

our class has been reding biographies Orivii and Wilber. If They didit invent The first motorist

airplan. Then we coudent go to Pochagle.

Cesar Chavez

Our class is reading biography's. I think Cesar Chavez is the most important person we have read about because he stood up for what he belived in. And that was farm workers shold be treated the way other people are treated. For example they where treated like slaves, and they diden't have bathroom braks, they diden't have clean water, they diden't have good houseis. Also, one day when Cesar Chavez had unuf of being treated unfairly and he told the worker's to stop working and walk with him. Mabey even for mile's to get equl rite's and to get what they wanted. So thank's to Cesar Chavez now we have better law's and now farm workers are treted the same as all the other's.

Louis Pasteur

We have been reading biographies. <u>I think Louis Pasteor is the most important person we have read about.</u> Louis Pasteor is a famous as a scientist. I think Louis Pasteor is thi most important person we have read about because he created a vaccine for rabies. Also he made milk safe to drink by making boylers and the bad bacteria couldend serviv the heat and then the milk is safe to drink. This is called Paterizashin. Thanks to Louis Pasteor people can stay safe from rabies and milk is safe to drink.

> **Introduces the topic** and the **opinion** is clearly **stated**

> **Supplies reasons that support the opinion** that Pasteur is the most important person

> **Uses** appropriate **linking words to connect opinion and reasons**

> **Provides a concluding statement** related to the opinion stated

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Final Thoughts
(**Gr 2 Opinion: Proficient**)

Overall, this second grade essay shows solid understanding of the topic. The opinion, that Louis Pasteur was the most important person this writer read about in class, is well-supported with one reason well-elaborated. The writer states their opinion and supports it with two reasons (*he created a vaccine for rabies and he made milk safe to drink*). This second grade writer shows an understanding of the process of pasteurization and describes it in the piece using precise academic vocabulary acquired from the classroom's reading experiences during the unit. The concluding statement relates to the opinion presented.

A Word About Language and Conventions
(**Gr 2 Opinion: Proficient**)

Control of Conventions: Although there are some errors, the writer shows *overall control* over grade-level language and conventions.

Rachel Carson

Weve been reading abut biographies. <u>I think Rachel Carson is the most</u>

<u>inpotin prson Because she stoped DDt for herting the Wold and animal's.</u>

naw pepal no they shod not spray it because it hrat the animal's.

Introduces the topic, and the **opinion** is clearly **stated**

Supplies a reason that supports the opinion

Uses some **linking words to connect opinion and reason**

Provides a concluding statement

Final Thoughts
(**Gr 2 Opinion: Approaching**)

Overall, this second grade opinion piece shows some understanding of the topic. The writer gives one reason why Rachel Carson is famous but the reason lacks elaboration to help the reader understand more about how Carson stopped the use of DDT and it's impact on animals and plants. The concluding sentence relates to the opinion presented.

This student could benefit from support in revising the piece to include more evidence and reasons that support the opinion.

A Word About Language and Conventions
(**Gr 2 Opinion: Approaching**)

Minimal Control of Conventions: The writer shows little control over language and conventions.

The Wright Brothers

our class has been reding biographies <u>Orivii and Willber</u>. if They didit

invent The first motorist Airplan. Then we coudent go to Pochagle.

Introduces the topic but the **opinion** is not clearly **stated**

Supplies an irrelevant **reason to support the opinion**

Uses a basic vocabulary

Attempts to use **linking words**

Concluding statement is missing

Final Thoughts
(Gr 2 Opinion: Beginning)

Overall, this essay shows basic understanding of the topic. The writer shows confusion about how to structure basic sentences to show their understanding of the topic.

Even though students were given a worksheet to record their notes, this writer would benefit from practice with orally rehearsing the notes/evidence on his graphic organizer prior to writing.

A Word About Language and Conventions
(Gr 2 Opinion: Beginning)

Minimal Control of Conventions: The writer shows little control over language and conventions. The lack of control of conventions and language interferes with the reader's understanding of the piece.

Cesar Chavez

Our class is reading biography's. I think Cesar Chavez is the most important person we have read about because he stood up for what he belived in. And that was farm worker's shold be treated the way other people are treaded. For exampel they where treated like slaves, and they diden't have bathroom braks, they diden't have clean water, they diden't have good houseis. Also, one day when Cesar Chavez had unuf of being treated unfairly and he told the worker's to stop working and walk whith him. Mabey even for mile's to get equl rite's and to get what they wanted. So thank's to Cesar Chavez now we have better law's and now farm worker's are treted the same as all the others.

Introduces the topic and provides needed context

The **opinion** is clearly **stated** and the focus is maintained throughout.

Provides well-elaborated evidence and in-depth **reasons that support the opinion**

Uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary

The writer consistently **uses linking words to connect opinion and reasons**.

P**rovides a concluding statement** that relates to the opinion presented

Final Thoughts
(Gr 2 Opinion: Exceeds)

Overall, this second grade opinion piece exceeds the standard for proficient. It meets all the criteria for proficient, and shows a solid understanding of the life of Cesar Chavez, a difficult topic for a young student. The writer consistently sticks to the focus, supplying multiple pieces of evidence from a variety of sources.

In addition, the piece contains in-depth evidence to develop the focus. Within that evidence, the writer uses complex and compound sentences, precise and sophisticated language and domain-specific vocabulary.

A Word About Language and Conventions
(Gr 2 Opinion: Exceeds)

Control of Conventions: Although there are some errors, the writer shows *overall control* over grade-level language and conventions.