

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 science and literature unit investigating whether or not people should interfere with nature using *Meeri Meets the Osprey* as their anchor text. The students listened to the text read aloud, then learned about ospreys from videos and other sources. As a class, they took public notes on the pros and cons of helping the ospreys, engaged in guided debates, discussed activism, then worked with the Focusing Question “*Should Meeri help the ospreys find a good home?*”

This question requires that students weigh the evidence before developing an opinion supported by reasons and accurate evidence from the text.

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

Should Meeri help the ospreys find a good home?

The Writing Task in the Curriculum

How is it embedded in curriculum/content?

★ *Class: 2nd grade ELA and Science curriculum*

★ *Curriculum unit*

- Students read *Meeri Meets the Ospreys* as a class and explored the text through the lens of whether to help or not help animals that are going extinct in the wild
- emphasis on weighing on both sides before developing an opinion and supporting that opinion with evidence and reasons

★ *Standards*

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

How did students build the knowledge they needed?

★ *Texts*

- Students listened to the text *Meeri Meets the Ospreys*
- Public notes became a resource for the students as they wrote

★ *Reading and re-reading*

- teacher read the text aloud multiple times
- students discussed the text and ideas in the text in guided conversations, and had fish-bowl debates
- as a class, students gathered specific evidence supporting both sides of the argument in group notes

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 elements such 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 weeks)

Standard W.2.1
Grade 2
Proficient

Bird Watching

Our class read the book Meeri meets the osprey. Meeri trys to find a good home for the opseys. I think Meeri should help the Ospreys. One reson she should help the Osprays is because some people enjoy watching birds. Also Osprays will not have a place to nest. For example Meeri calld the power comuny and they put up pulls for the Osprays to nest. An nother reson is some people want Osprays to nest and have chicks so endangered birds don't become extinct.

Some people thing that Ospreys can take care of them selfs but I think they need help.

Standard W.2.1
Grade 2
Approaching

Meeri Helps the Ospreys

Our class read the book Meeri meets the ospreys. Meeri helped the ospreys. I think Meeri should help the ospreys find a good home. One reason she help the ospreys is people don't want the ospreys to die. She put up signs. Another reason is people need to help nature Meeri could the power company to set up nesting platforms.

Standard W.2.1
Grade 2
Beginning

Should Meeri Help the Ospreys?

My class is disagreeing if an activist named Meeri should help the ospreys find a good home. I think Meeri should help the Ospreys because the Ospreys need help finding a good home. Meeri call the park please. We depend on people like Meeri to help the ospreys.

Standard W.2.1
Grade 2
Exceeds

Finding A Good Home

Our class is reading the book “Meeri meets the ospreys.” in this book Meeri is trying to help two ospreys find a good home on lake Arrowhead. Our class is having a debate about whether she should help the ospreys find a good home or not. I think she should not help them. Nature can take care of itself, “for example” the osprey’s have instincts to survive. Another reason is that with too much human interference those instincts will soon wear off. “For another example” the ospreys might feel comfortable around people and live in dangerous city’s and be killed by the harsh environment. Also some people don’t feel taking care of nature is their job. The next time you see an animal in the wild I think you should leave it alone.

Standard W.2.1
Grade 2
Proficient

Bird Watching

Our class read the book Meeri meets the ospreys. Meeri tries to find a good home for the Ospeys. I think Meeri should help the Ospreys. One reson she should help the Osprays is because some people enjoy watching birds. Also Osprays will not have a place to nest. For example Meeri calld the power comuny and they put up pulls for the Osprays to nest. An nother reson is some people want Osprays to nest and have chicks so endangered birds don't become extinct.

Some people think that Ospreys can take care of them selfs, but I think they need help.

Introduces the topic with needed context and the **opinion** is clearly **stated**

Supplies reasons that support the opinion that Meeri should help the ospreys

Uses appropriate linking words to connect opinion and reasons

Provides a concluding statement related to the opinion stated

Final Thoughts
(Gr 2 Opinion: Proficient)

Overall, this second grade essay shows solid understanding of the topic. The writer offers needed context, explaining that in the book, Meeri tries to find a home for the ospreys. The opinion (*that Meeri should help the ospreys*) is clearly stated and well supported with reasons and examples. Linking words and phrases (*for example, also, another reason*) connect the ideas and information in the piece. This second grade writer shows a clear understanding of the issue and describes it using precise academic vocabulary and accurate information acquired from the text and the classroom 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.

Standard W.2.1
Grade 2
Approaching

Meeri Helps the Ospreys

Our class read the book Meeri meets the ospreys. Meeri helped the ospreys. I think Merri should help the ospreys find a good home. One reason she help the ospreys is people don't want the ospreys to die. She put up signs. Another reason is people need to help nature Meeri could the power company to set up nesting platforms.

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

Supplies reasons that support the opinion

Uses some linking words to connect opinion and reason

The piece ends abruptly, lacking a **concluding statement.**

Final Thoughts
(Gr 2 Opinion: Approaching)

Overall, this second grade opinion piece shows some understanding of the topic. The writer introduces the topic and clearly states an opinion. The piece offers two reasons why Meeri should help the osprey (*people don't want ospreys to die* and *people need to help nature*) that come from the text and the information gathered in class. However, the reasons are minimally supported and lack elaboration and the piece lacks a sense of closure.

This writer could benefit from oral discussion with the teacher about the osprey issue before writing the piece to improve elaboration. This student could also benefit from support in revising the piece to include a conclusion that follows from the opinion.

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

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

Standard W.2.1
Grade 2
Beginning

Should Meeri Help the Ospreys?

My class is disagreeing if an activist named Meeri should help the ospreys find a good home. I think Meeri should help the ospreys because the ospreys need help finding a good home. Meeri call the park please. We depend on people like Meeri to help the ospreys.

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

Reasons to support the opinion are vague and not clearly explained

Uses basic vocabulary

Uses a **linking word to connect opinion and reasons**

Provides a concluding statement

Final Thoughts
(Gr 2 Opinion: Beginning)

Overall, this essay shows basic understanding of the topic and some understanding of the structure of an essay. The piece includes an introduction and a concluding statement, but the reasons to support the opinion are vague and unsupported with evidence or clear examples. This omission could be due to a lack of understanding of the text and/or the idea that an opinion needs to be supported by clear reasons and evidence. Instead of supplying reasons to support their opinion, the writer vaguely restates parts of the focusing question.

This writer would benefit from multiple opportunities to orally discuss the text, the focus, and reasons that support their opinion before writing.

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

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

Standard W.2.1
Grade 2
Exceeds

Finding A Good Home

Our class is reading the book “Meeri meets the ospreys.” in this book

Meeri is trying to help two ospreys find a good home on lake Arrowhead.

Our class is having a debate about wether she should help the ospreys

find a good home or not. I think she should not help theme. Nature can take car of itself. “for example” the osprey’s have instincts to survive.

Another reason is that with to much human interference those instincts will soon ware off. “For another example” the ospreys might feel

comfortable around people and live in dangerus citys and be killed by the harsh invierment. Also some people don’t feel taking care of nature is

there job. The next time you see a animal in the wild I think you should leave it alone.

Introduces the topic and provides needed context

Opinion is clearly **stated** and maintained throughout

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

Uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary

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

Provides a concluding statement that relates to the opinion presented

Final Thoughts
(Gr 2 Opinion: Exceeds)

Overall, this second grade opinion piece meets all the criteria for proficient and exceeds the standard in some areas. The writer shows a solid understanding of the reasons not to help the ospreys in nature (*nature can take care of itself and too much human interference can weaken an animal's natural instincts*), a difficult side of the argument to present with clarity and understanding. The writer consistently sticks to the focus, uses information from the text, and draws on sources used in the classroom.

The writer uses precise and sophisticated language, domain-specific vocabulary, and an authoritative tone, enhancing the claim of the writer.

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.