

1st Opinion 'On-Demand' Performance Assessment Writing Prompt

Note:

- During “on-demand” assessments students should be at their regular writing seats and supplied with paper. Students should also have access to additional pages if needed.
- Teachers can post the prompt and read it aloud.
- Do **not** give the students a checklist during the pre-test, **only** during post-test.

Opinion on-demand prompt:

Day Prior to Assessment:

“Think of a topic or an idea that you have strong feelings about. Tomorrow during writers’ workshop you will write an opinion piece in which you will write your opinion about one topic and reasons why you feel this way. Use everything you know about this type of writing. If you want to find and use information from a book or another outside source, you may bring that with you tomorrow. Use everything you know about opinion writing--including letter writing, review writing, essay writing to make this your best opinion writing.”

Day of Assessment:

“Writers, in fifteen minutes you will have a chance to do some opinion writing. Yesterday, you thought of a topic or idea that you have strong feelings about. Now is your chance to write to convince your readers of your opinion.”

“Do not start writing yet. For the next 15 minutes I want you to think about what you are going to write about. If you want to take notes and/or find information from books or other students, you can. Just make sure you are ready to write about your opinion and convince your readers. Use everything you know about opinion writing--including letter writing, review writing, essay writing to make this your best opinion writing.”

After 15 minutes:

“Now it is time for you to write your opinion piece. Remember, you will tell your readers about an idea or an opinion that you have strong feelings about. In your writing, write your opinion and convince your readers by telling them why you feel this way. Use everything you know about opinion writing--including letter writing, review writing, essay writing to make this your best opinion writing.”

“In your writing, make sure you:

- name your opinion.
- give reasons and evidence to explain why you have that opinion.
- write an ending.”

Things to Consider:

Teachers may “lightly” prompt students whose work falls at the earliest levels (Kindergarten thru 1st grade). The Common Core State Standards call for “guidance and support” at the early grades. The following guidelines offer acceptable guidance and support. Please refrain from providing any additional prompting or help.

1. If a student has not begun writing after 5 minutes teachers may prompt the student **one** time.
Opinion: “Think of something you have strong feelings about. Tell your opinion and why you feel this way. Go ahead and write and draw it the best you can.”
2. If a student is only drawing pictures teacher may prompt the student by saying, “I see you are making pictures to tell your idea. Could you also try writing the words to go with the pictures?”
3. For emergent writers, if their work is something you will not be able to read later, you will want to record what the writer tells you he or she has written. “What did you write? Would you please read it to me?” Record what the writer says on a separate piece of paper to be attached later.