

Real Writers

Common Core Anchor Writing Standard 2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

As you research and write, you will develop more word knowledge, fluency, and writing skills and will apply your reading comprehension strategies for learning in the content areas.

1. Choose a topic about a way a system changed.
2. Think about it—what do you know, want to find out about it.
3. Collect information: make notes in words and numbers.
4. Make an outline.
5. Analyze the number facts with graphs.
6. Organize a BOOK plan
7. Make diagrams and illustrations that make your ideas clear.

This guide was developed by the DePaul Center for Urban Education
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Choose a topic about how a system changed:

THINK about it: what do you know, what do you want to find out about it.

What I Know	What I Want to Find Out

Look at what you knew and want to know.

Then use the outline on the next page to write questions that you will use to organize your research.

Figure Out Your BIG questions:

Look at your chart.

Think of questions that you have answers to or want to get facts to answer.

Here are examples of how to use big questions as an outline.

Here are four questions for outline you could use to write a booklet about any change.

1. What was the situation like before the change?
2. How and why did the change take place?
3. What did people think about the change?
4. What did people do about the change?

What are your questions about the change?

COLLECT Important Information

Common Core Anchor Reading Standard 2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

Make notes as you find information. Then cut these rectangles into note cards you will use when you write about your topic.

Fact: Source:	Fact: Source:
Fact: Source:	Fact: Source:
Fact: Source:	Fact: Source:

MAKE MORE FACT COLLECTERS ON INDEX CARDS OR PAPER

Collect Quantitative Information

CCSS Math Practice Standard 1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

Look for information about the change that is reported with numbers. Note that information here.

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Numerical Facts</i>	<i>Source</i>

Make a Writing Plan

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We have given you a basic outline. You can change it to make it fit your topic. This is just an example. See the next page for how to fill in the outline.

TOPIC: _____

Introduction

How I will introduce this topic to my readers.

Part 1. _____

What I will include about this part of the topic:

Kinds of Information:

Part 2. _____

What I will include about this part of the topic:

Kinds Information:

Part 3. _____

What I will include about this part of the topic:

Kinds of Information:

Conclusion

What I will say to bring my writing together at the end.

Example of a Book Plan

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TOPIC: Reversing the flow of the Chicago River

Introduction

How I will introduce this topic to my readers: More than 100 years ago, Chicago people made a big change in the river. (I'll explain what it was and why it was important.)

Part 1. Chicago in 1900

Information: What the Chicago environment was like in 1900

Illustrations: Pictures I'll draw of swampy land, graph of how many people were here in 1880, 1890, 1900

Part 2. How they made the change in the river

Kinds of Information: How did they do it? How long it took, what they did, how difficult it was.

Illustrations: Timeline of what they did.

Part 3. What happened to animals and plants because of the change.

Kinds of Information: How did it affect the environment? What kinds of animals and plants needed the wetter habitat?

Illustrations: Drawings of those animals. Food web showing how they fit together.

Part 4. What happened to people because of the change.

Kinds of Information: How did the change affect people? There was less disease, the population grew. But people downstream had problems.

Illustrations: graph showing population 1900, 1910, 1920,

Conclusion

What I will say to end the book. How it still affects Chicago today.

Next Steps:

Check to see if you have all the facts you need:

- ✓ Look at your outline.
- ✓ Check your notes.
- ✓ Sort them into the parts of your outline.

If you don't have all the information you need, look for more information. Add those facts.

Do the Math

- ✓ Look for the math information you need to make graphs.
- ✓ Make your graphs.
- ✓ Write a title and an interpretation of each graph.

Use the graph makers on the next page as examples.

You may not use all those kinds of graphs. The graph you choose to use depends on what you are trying to explain.

Then plan the pages in your book.

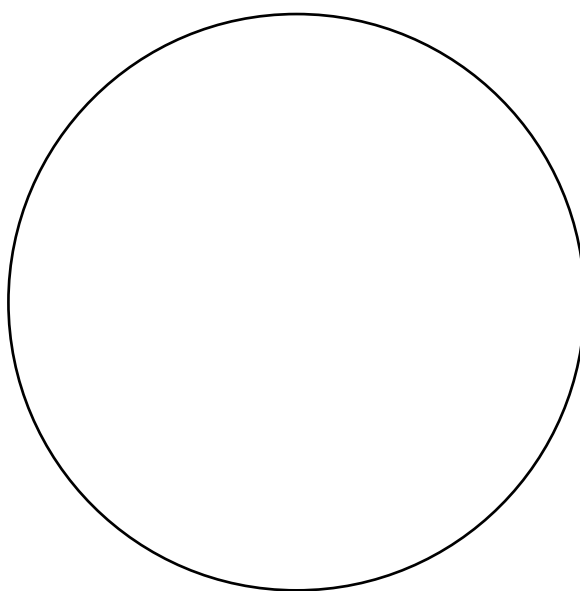
The last two pages show a layout to help you plan what they will look like.

Graph Proportions

CCSS Math Practice Standard 2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.

1. *Locate and collect information about a situation. Put it on a table.*
2. *Use that information to make a circle graph.*

Title of the Graph: _____



What My Graph Shows:

GRAPH RELATIVE AMOUNTS

CCSS Math Practice Standard 2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.

1. *Locate and collect information about a situation.*
2. *Use that information to make a bar graph.*



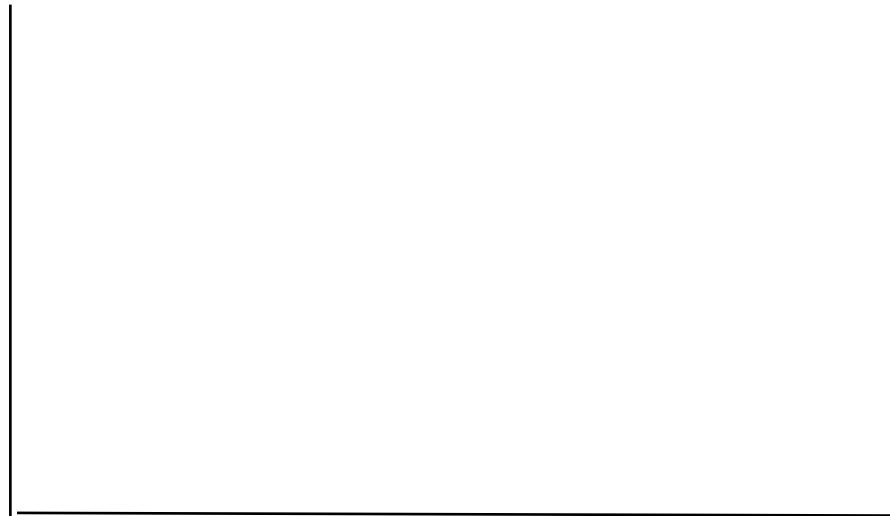
Title of the Graph

Analysis of the Graph

Graph Changes

CCSS Math Practice Standard 2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.

1. *Locate and collect information about a situation that changes over time.*
2. *Use that information to make a line graph.*



Title of the Graph

Analysis of the Graph

Make a plan for a book—make a layout. This is a kind of blueprint. On it you show how your pages of your book will look. Your book should have illustrations and facts in it. The illustrations can include your graphs, pictures you draw or locate, and diagrams.

<i>Page 1</i>	<i>Page 2</i>
<i>Idea</i>	<i>Idea</i>
<i>What I'll put here to support the idea:</i>	<i>What I'll put here to support the idea:</i>
<i>Illustration:</i>	<i>Illustration:</i>
<u><i>facts:</i></u>	<i>facts:</i>
<i>Page 3</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>Idea</i>	<i>Idea</i>
<i>What I'll put here to support the idea:</i>	<i>What I'll put here to support the idea:</i>
<i>Illustration:</i>	<i>Illustration:</i>
<i>facts:</i>	<i>facts:</i>

This is an example of how to make the page layout.

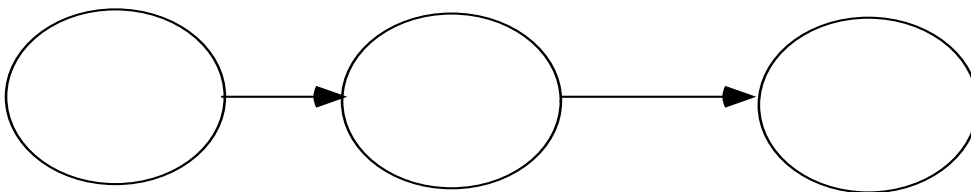
Make a plan that includes all the pages you will put into your book.
 Make diagrams and draw or find pictures. (See the diagram makers on the next pages.)
 Then write the book.
 When you finish, make the table of contents.
 Then make the cover.

You can put your book into a computer, too.

Diagram Maker

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Title: _____

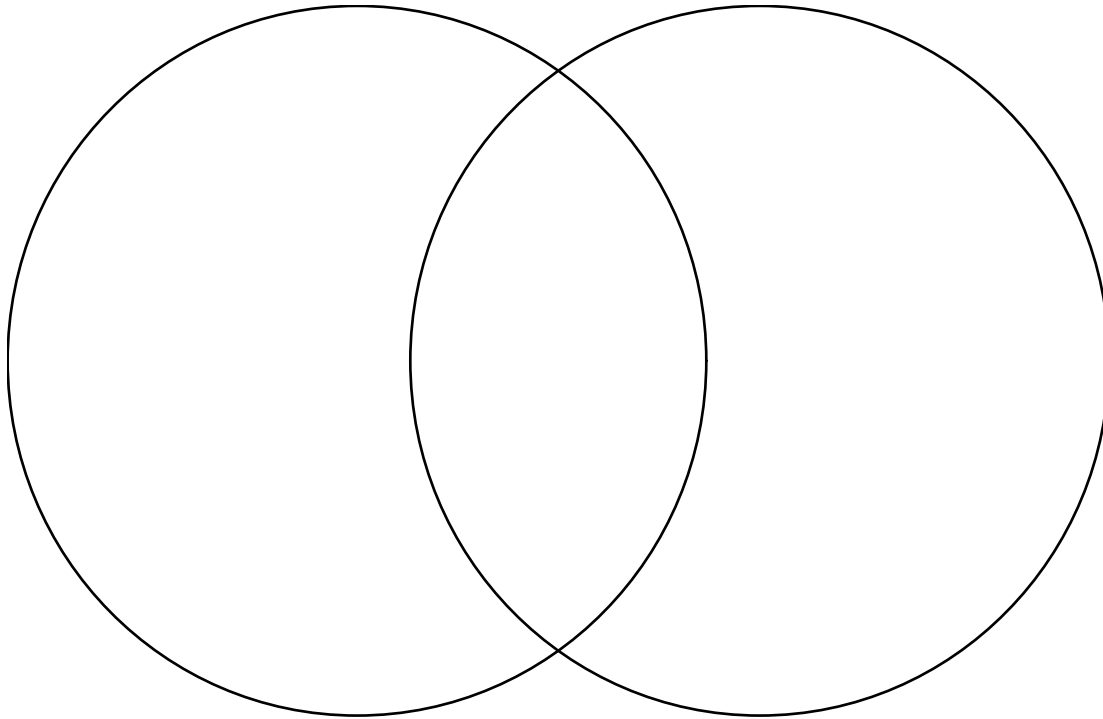


 *Explain what your diagram shows.*

Compare and Contrast

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Title: _____



THINK IT THROUGH

- ⇨ *What are the important differences?*
- ⇨ *Why are those important?*
- ⇨ *Are they more alike or different?*

Support your answers.