CRAFT SOCIAL STUDIES

Your students can use the CRAFT approach to make writing interesting to do and interesting to read—to increase their thinking.

These can be set up as activities or assessments.

*Note: CRAFT is an adaptation of RAFT (International Reading Association)—role, audience, format, topic—adding C for CONTENT enables teachers to specify the major content to be included in the writing.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Challenges that came with Westward Expansion</th>
<th>The role of the federal government</th>
<th>How to read history</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Role</td>
<td>An oxen who just finished the trip west</td>
<td>The President</td>
<td>The textbook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audience</td>
<td>The wagon master</td>
<td>Congress</td>
<td>A textbook reader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Format</td>
<td>List of complaints and recommendations</td>
<td>Speech</td>
<td>Step-by-step guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tell</td>
<td>Facts about the difficulties pioneers faced getting to their destination; the outcome of their struggles</td>
<td>The national priorities—how they have changed in the 20th to 21st centuries</td>
<td>What features to look for; what kinds of ideas to read for; strategies to use to report what you learn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your Turn: Design more CRAFT reports—ask your students to design their own, too.
Big Questions Focus on Big Ideas
CCSSR2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

BIG question

List information to answer it. You can collect facts and examples from your class sessions, your notes, the Internet, books and magazines.

______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

Write your answer. You can write:
___a book
___a poster
___an exhibit
___a collage or other artwork
___a report
___a presentation
___a play
___a speech

___ ________________________________ (another format)
Historical Fiction Writer
CCSSR 3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

Event: ______________________________________________________

Show the place.

Name three kinds of persons you think were there.

_________________  _____________________   ___________________

Write the story.
Write a story about what they did during the event.
Tell what they said about what was happening.
EXPAND HISTORY WITH DRAMA
CCSSW3—write narrative to communicate a theme

Event: ____________________________________________________________

Who’s in it?

Who | Position
--- | ---

| | |
| | |
| | |

The challenge: _______________________________________________________

What happens?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

What lesson can people learn from this history?

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Write the play.
Write what each person might say.
Make sure that the lesson people can learn is clear.
**Book-Maker: How to Write and Illustrate a Children’s Book**

CCSS Writing Standard 7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

Choose your topic. ____________________________________________________________

Figure out what you will include. Note what’s important, one important part to each box. Each box stands for one page in your book. Note just one important point you will make on each box.

**What’s Important to Know about this Topic**

Add pictures, diagrams, examples. Figure out what would make your point clear. Make a note in the circle in each box.
PARAGRAPHS WRITER
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.

What is the Main Idea I will communicate?

What information can I use to support it? Write it on these rows. Or use small pieces of paper and write one fact on each piece. Just write a few words for each fact.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fact 1</th>
<th>Fact 2</th>
<th>Fact 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Get It Across: Organize Your Paragraph
You may use all your facts.
You may decide not to use some facts.
Number the facts in the order you will put them in your paragraph.
Then write your paragraph.

Then check your paragraph for:
  __punctuation   __subject-verb agreement   __ _______________________
Write a Paragraph about What You Learn

I can explain a topic. (CCSSW2)

TOPIC: _________________________________________________

List” words that are important to understanding this topic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word 1</th>
<th>Word 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Write a paragraph about the topic. Try to include all of your words.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

Write a title for your paragraph. Your title should make the main idea clear.

__________________________________________________________________
Constructed Response Organizer—
To a question about one text.
Common Core Anchor 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.

What does the question ask me to figure out? __________________________

____________________________________________________________________

What kinds of information and ideas will I look for in the text to help me answer it?

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

Evidence and examples I will include from the text.
Plan Your Response

Common Core Writing Anchor 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.

What will you explain?

How will you start?

List four important facts or examples you will include.

How will you end?
Nonfiction Writers EXPLAIN Ideas

Use this diagram to plan a one-page explanation of an idea about a topic.

**TOPIC:** ___________________________________________________

**IDEA:** ____________________________________________________

**Examples you will use to explain it.**

Example

Example

Example

You can use that diagram as your outline.

Which of these techniques will you use to make your explanation clear?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>allusion</th>
<th>analogy</th>
<th>anecdote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>argument</td>
<td>captions</td>
<td>comparison and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contrast</td>
<td>data</td>
<td>debate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>description</td>
<td>dialogue</td>
<td>examples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>figurative language</td>
<td>graph</td>
<td>headings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>humor</td>
<td>illustrations</td>
<td>imagery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>narrative</td>
<td>quotations</td>
<td>sarcasm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>satire</td>
<td>sequence of events</td>
<td>table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>timeline</td>
<td>titles and subtitles</td>
<td>tone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Write your explanation and share it with other students.
Write an Article: Chicago Changes

Your assignment from the editor is to write a short article about how Chicago has changed. Start by using information from your research about how Chicago was different in the past. Put those in the left circle. In the right circle, put information about how Chicago is different today. In the middle where the circles overlap list any ways Chicago has stayed the same.

Chicago in the Past

Chicago Today

Then write your article. Here is the outline for your article.

Introduction
An important difference in Chicago in the past.
An important change
What has stayed the same in Chicago in past and present
What I think the future of Chicago will be based on what I learned from comparing and contrasting Chicago in past and present