



Reading/Writing/Thinking Chicago

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.

COMMUNITY HISTORY/FUTURE BOOK

This is a Do-It-Yourself Book-Maker

First, look at the project sheets. You will use them to get facts for three parts of your community history:

1. Places People Built
2. Choices People Made
3. Making History: My Community's Future

For each part, you need to get facts from people in the community. Make notes as you interview those people.

Then make an outline for the book.

Then look for facts that fit the topics. Use them when you write the history of your community.

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Project 1: PLACES PEOPLE BUILT

Getting Started: Choose a place you like in the community. It could be a school, church, home, or any place people have built.

People to Interview: The people who own or rent the building or people who work there.

Getting the Facts: Use this question list to find out about the place.

1. How old do you think the building is?
2. Why do you think people built it in this location?
3. What choices did the builders make about the way this building was built?
4. What changes have people made in the building since it first was built?
5. What makes this building a special place for the community?

Show Where

Draw a map showing where the building is.
Show its relative location.
Show where it is in relation to your school.

Project 2: CHOICES PEOPLE MADE

Getting Started: Make a list of people to interview.

Include the following kinds of people:

- A person who has lived in the community a long time
- A person who has just moved to the community
- A person who has worked in the community a long time
- A person who owns or manages a business in the community

Each student can interview one person, or students can work in teams.

There are four different pages for this section, one page for each of the different categories of people.

A person who has lived in the community a long time

Questions:

1. Why did you decide to live here?

2. What is special about the community?

3. What changes have you seen in the community?

4. If you could make one change in the community, what would you choose?

A person who has just moved to the community

Questions:

1. Why did you decide to live here?

2. What is special about the community?

3. What would you like to see change in the community?

A person who owns or manages a business in the community

Questions:

1. Why did you choose to have your business in this community?

2. How does your business contribute to the community?

3. What changes have you made in your business since you started it here?

4. Why did you make those changes?

5. What changes will you make in your business in the future?

Project 3: MAKING HISTORY: MY COMMUNITY'S FUTURE

You have interviewed people and learned about their choices.

Now it is your turn.

1. Choose a change you would like to make in the community.

It should be an important change.

It must be a change you can make.

It could be a change your class could make.

2. Make a plan to bring about that change.

Make a time-line to list the steps you will take.

Use a map to show your plan. Draw a map showing what is there now. Then show what will be different because of your change.

3. Carry out your plan.

4. Then write the story of your change.

First, tell how you decided to make this change.

Tell how you got other people to choose and to support your change.

Then tell how your idea changed the community.

Use a map to show your change. Show how the community is different because of your idea.