



ELA
Common Core
State Standards
Resource Packet

2nd Grade

Opinion Unit: Using the Power of Reviews

Unit 4

08/03/13

Writing Unit of Study
2nd Grade – Opinion Unit, Unit 4
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Opinion Writing Continuum – check - www.readingandwritingproject.com

Background Information on Reviews

Focus Questions During Immersion

- What is a review? What is the purpose of a review?
- What makes a good review?
- What is the purpose of a review?
- How are reviews written? What is included in different types of reviews?

Possible Anchor Charts

1. Noticings from Studying Reviews
2. What Makes a Good Review?
3. Steps to Writing a Review
4. Different Review Types and Categories

Teacher Resource IA

Sampling of What a Class Might Discover or Notice Through Studying Mentor Text of Reviews

1. Title – often reveals type of review.
2. The writer tells his/her overall opinion. “How I really feel about _____ is...”
3. The writer gives reasons (2-3) WHY s/he has this opinion.
4. The opinion is usually stated in the introduction.
5. Overall Organization/Structure:
 - Introduction – lead, gives opinion
 - Body – gives specific reasons why reviewer feels this way (discusses specific details about various aspects that were pleasing or displeasing)
 - Conclusion – restates opinion, wraps up the piece
6. Introduction Noticings
 - Catchy lead to grab reader’s attention.
 - Gives background information about the thing or place being reviewed.
 - May tell intended audience – Who’s it for?
 - Types of leads:
 - Tells overall opinion.
 - Quote from a character, a reader, author or customer.
 - Illustrates the reviewer’s credibility.
 - Question
7. Body Noticings
 - Gives support for the opinion – reasons/evidence
 - Uses categories to explain reasons why reviewer feels this way. Different types of reviews discuss different categories.
 - Categories for books:
 - Categories for movies:
 - Categories for restaurants: } See Resource Section, p. I-B
 - Categories for tourist spots:
 - Categories for video games?
8. Ending/Conclusion Noticings
 - Restates overall opinion
 - Types of endings:
 - Repetition
 - Ends with a rating
 - Ends with a comparison
9. Uses “Reviewer’s Language” or specialized language related to the type of review. For example, “I was greeted at the door by a friendly hostess.”
10. May talk directly to the reader – For example, “You will love...”
11. May include “spicy” language – For example, “The movie was thrilling...chiller...”
12. May include advice – Examples: *Arrive early. Skip this one. Call ahead for reservations.*
13. May include a “Who’s it for?” sentence or identifies target audience (who will like this...). Examples:
 - “This movie was made to entertain children but it will also entertain adults.”
 - “Grown-ups will not be happy because...”
 - “You may like this if you are the kind of person who...”
14. May include quotes by other people – people that also had opinions on this xx, or experts or people that work there, etc. Examples:
 - “Three diners at the table near me said that lunch at the American Girl Place is ‘the best birthday present ever.’”
 - For a video game review, writers may write, “When you win a game, the character Slash sometimes says, ‘You rock!’”
15. May include comparisons that persuade –
 - “If you liked _____ then you will love _____.”
 - “Most kids who liked _____ also liked _____.”
 - If _____ is a three star _____, then this is a _____ star _____.

Teacher Resource IA

Sampling of What a Class Might Discover or Notice - Continued

16. Lead Types

- A. Tells overall opinion.
 - *Ben and Jerry’s is famous for ice cream, Starbucks for coffee, and in my part of New York City, Crumbs is famous for cupcakes.*
- B. Quote from a character, a reader, author or customer.
 - *“This is the best vanilla cupcake I ever had,” said a little boy sitting at the table next to me at Crumbs Bakery on the Upper West Side. I agreed.*
- C. Illustrates the reviewer’s credibility.
 - *I love cupcakes and eat several every day. So trust me when I say Crumbs is the best place in New York City for cupcakes!*
- D. Question
 - *“Where do you go when you have a sweet tooth craving?”*

17. Ending Types

- A. Repetition – repeat opinion at the end, just simply say the same thing again.
- B. End with a rating – invent a rating system (stars, thumbs up or down, numbers, etc.).
- C. End with a comparison to another restaurant, movie, or game that is similar to or different from the one reviewed.
 - *“If you liked this book, you may also like...”*
 - *“A better option is to play...”*

Sample of the Kind of Notes Reviewers/Critics Might Write

Source: A Quick Guide to Teaching Persuasive Writing by Sarah Picard Taylor, 2008, pp. 42-63

Crumbs Bakery

- Smells good when you walk inside
- Music – fun, upbeat
- Cupcakes look good! So many displayed at once! Colorful
- Staff helps me pick out the best ones
- They pack them in a safe little box with a colored sticker.
- Cupcakes are sweet, moist. Frosting is not too thick. Also, not too sugary. (Some places have frosting where you can feel the grains of the sugar. I don't like that. I like smooth frosting.)
- There are a few tables to sit and eat your cupcake if you do not want to take it to go with you.
- It's close to the subway --- easy to get to.

Elaboration

“When you walk in, you will see cupcakes.”

Vs.

“When you walk in, you will see three shelves of cupcakes and they'll come in all the colors of the rainbow. You will smell the sweet, warm smell of newly baked cupcakes.”

Structure

Opinion: Crumbs is the best bakery for cupcakes.

Reasons to support opinion:

1. Crumbs is the best bakery in my neighborhood because they have a beautiful display of all their cupcakes so you can see what is available.
2. The people who work at Crumbs are always friendly.
3. Another reason Crumbs is the best bakery is that the cupcakes are sweet but not too sweet, with the perfect amount of frosting, about a half of an inch!”

Types and Categories of Reviews

Book or Movie

- Children’s reactions to characters, authors, or genres.
- Movie – characters and actors who play those characters, directors.
- Comparisons between one version and another of a book or movie (the way the book is like or unlike others).
- Description of characters, setting, plot, the special features, etc.
- Book reviews provide author, illustrator, and title, names of main characters, setting, and a basic gist of the story.
- Movie reviews provide title, names of main characters and the actors who play those characters, setting, and plot, as well as locations where you can see the movie.

Video Games

- Comparison of a new version and older version of the game.
- The quality of graphic images.
- Description of graphics, trick moves, enjoyment level, the amount of reading a player needs to do in order to play and whether easy to progress through the levels.
- Video reviews have the name and version of the game, game systems on which the game can be played, a description of the setting or plot or characters in the game. Some video game reviews include tips on how to move up to higher levels.

Food or Restaurant

- Children’s judgments of taste, texture, smell, appearance of food, service and atmosphere.
- Comparisons of restaurants that are similar in some ways.
- Description of service, prices, atmosphere, taste and appearance of food – entire dining experience.
- Restaurant reviews have name and address of the restaurant, name of the chef, names of things the reviewer ate. Some reviews include the price of food and a description of the restaurant décor.

Categories of Reviews

Book	Movie/DVD	Restaurant	Video	Tourist Spot
Background – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title • Author • Copyright • Genre/type of book • Brief summary/gist 	Background <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title • Genre (Disney, mystery, etc.) • Rating (PG, G) • Actors/actresses 	Background <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name • Location (maybe address) • Type • Owner 	Background <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name/title • Genre/type (sports) • Rating (E for everyone, etc.) • What system played on • Point of game 	Background <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name • Location • Type/Attraction (<i>museum, vacation spot, educational, etc.</i>) • How long there
Characters Setting	Opinion of the performance of actor/actress (or even characters and how they were developed)	Food – taste, quality, etc.	Graphic/image	Appearance/atmosphere
Plot	Plot- story line	Appearance/atmosphere	Difficulty	Activities/entertainment
Illustrations	Visual effects (special effects)	service	Levels or progression	Food (or other perks) if available
Theme/author’s message		Price	Amount of background/reading needed	Service/“tour guide”
Audience/who’s it for?	Audience/who’s it for?	Audience/who’s it for?	Audience/who’s it for?	Audience/who’s it for?

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ANY TYPE OF REVIEW

*****Entire Experience/Overall –Would you recommend it?*****

*****Highlights*****

*****Recommendations*****

Mark Up Text Example

Source: A Quick Guide to Teaching Persuasive Writing by Sarah Picard Taylor, 2008, pp. 42-63

Sample Restaurant Review - Complete

“This is the best vanilla cupcake I ever had,” said a little boy sitting at the table next to me at Crumbs Bakery on the Upper West Side. I agreed.

Or

Ben and Jerry’s is famous for ice cream, Starbucks for coffee, and in my part of New York City, Crumbs is famous for cupcakes.

Or

I love cupcakes and eat several every day. So trust me when I say Crumbs is the best place in New York City for cupcakes!

Crumbs is the best bakery for cupcakes.

“When you walk in, you will see three shelves of cupcakes and they’ll come in all the colors of the rainbow. You will smell the sweet, warm smell of newly baked cupcakes.”

The colorful cupcakes in the window suggest this shop is for kids, but one whiff of the fresh-baked air and everyone in your home will want to have a bite of these tasty treats.

Crumbs is the best bakery in my neighborhood because they have a beautiful display of all their cupcakes so you can see what is available.

The people who work at Crumbs are always friendly.

Another reason Crumbs is the best bakery is that the cupcakes are sweet but not too sweet, with the perfect amount of frosting, about a half of an inch!”

Crumbs is the best bakery for cupcakes. It gets * * * * * -- 5 out of 5 *.

Mark Up Text Example, Continued

Source: A Quick Guide to Teaching Persuasive Writing by Sarah Picard Taylor, 2008, pp. 42-63

Sample Restaurant Review – Mark Up Text by Structure

Lead

“This is the best vanilla cupcake I ever had,” said a little boy sitting at the table next to me at Crumbs Bakery on the Upper West Side. I agreed.

Opinion

Crumbs is the best bakery for cupcakes.

Elaboration

“When you walk in, you will see three shelves of cupcakes and they’ll come in all the colors of the rainbow. You will smell the sweet, warm smell of newly baked cupcakes,” said a customer that goes there at least twice a week.

Target Audience

The colorful cupcakes in the window suggest this shop is for kids, but one whiff of the fresh-baked air and everyone in your home will want to have a bite of these tasty treats.

Reasons to Support Opinion – mark up category

Crumbs is the best bakery in my neighborhood because they have a beautiful display of all their cupcakes so you can see what is available (appearance).

The people who work at Crumbs are always friendly (service).

Another reason Crumbs is the best bakery is that the cupcakes are sweet but not too sweet, with the perfect amount of frosting, about a half of an inch (taste)!

Ending

Crumbs is the best bakery for cupcakes. It gets * * * * * -- 5 out of 5 *.

Cafeteria/Restaurant Review

School Cafeteria/Restaurant:

Background:

Name: _____

Location:
(Address) _____

Type: _____
(examples: fine dining, fast food, home cooking)

Menu Choices: _____
(examples: Italian, Mexican, Chinese)

Food:

(What did you or others eat/order?)

Appearance/Atmosphere:

(Setting)

Teacher Resource ID, Continued

Service:

(examples: wait time, friendliness, food time)

Price:

(Value for your money)

Audience:

(Who is it for?)

Recommendations:

Overall Experience:

(Would you recommend it?)

Video Game Review

Video Game:	_____
Background:	_____ _____
Name/Title:	_____
Genre/Type:	_____ (examples: sport, action)
Rating:	_____ (examples: E)
System played on:	_____

Point of the game:	_____ _____
Graphic/Image:	_____ _____
Difficulty:	_____

Teacher Resource 1D, Continued

<p>How do you advance to next level(s):</p> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Amount of background needed: (Schema)</p> <hr/>
<p>Audience: (Who is it for?)</p> <hr/>
<p>Entire Experience/Overall: (Would you recommend it?)</p> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Recommendations:</p> <hr/> <hr/>

Teacher Resource 1D, Continued

Movie/DVD

Background:

Name/Title _____

Genre _____

Rating _____

Actors/Actresses _____

Opinion of Actor's Performance

(How was the character developed?)

Plot

(Sequence of events)

Visual/Special Effects

Teacher Resource 1D, Continued

Audience

(Who is it for?)

Overall Experience

(Would you recommend it?)

Recommendations

Tourist Review

Tourist Destination

Background:

Name _____

Location _____

Type of Attraction _____

Appearance/Atmosphere

(Setting)

Food

(Refreshments available for purchase?)

Activities/Entertainment

Teacher Resource 1D, Continued

Service/Tour Guide

Audience

(Who is it for?)

Overall Experience

(Would you recommend it?)

Recommendations



Interview Questions

Reviewer _____ Item being reviewed _____

Person Interviewing _____ Date _____

Interview Questions

1.

Response

2.

Response



Interview Questions

3.

Response

4.

Response

Interview Sheet for Reviews

Your Name _____ Date _____

Type of review: (circle it): Movie, Video Game, Restaurant, Tourist Spot

Review Title: _____

Who did you interview: _____

What did they say: (Be sure to write exactly what they said.)

Interview Sheet for Reviews

Your Name _____ Date _____

Type of review: (circle it): Movie, Video Game, Restaurant, Tourist Spot

Review Title: _____

Who did you interview: _____

What did they say: (Be sure to write exactly what they said.)

Interview Homework for Reviews

Dear Families,

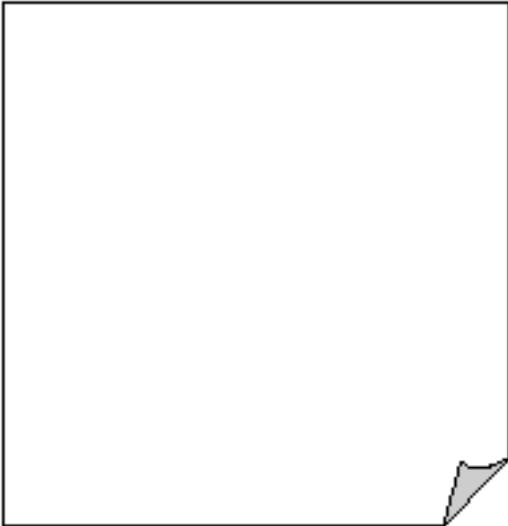
Second Graders have been working on writing reviews, and today we are focusing on using quotes to add to the reviews that we've chosen to write.

Tonight for homework, we would like your student to practice gathering and writing down quotes for his/her review. Since they are supposed to be about his/her particular review, the people they interview will have to give their thoughts about that topic. For instance if they chose video games, they might ask a family member what they think of the game, or what they think makes the game especially hard, or what they think of the game compared to other games. Then they need to write down the answer the person gives them, complete with quotation marks.

Example: "I think it's the most challenging game we own!" my mom said.

Please make sure they have several quotes to use in their review, so they can choose the best one! Thanks for your help with this.

Quotes from family or friends about my review:



Title _____

Reviewer _____

Date _____



A vertical rectangular box with a thick black border containing ten horizontal lines for writing.

A horizontal rectangular box with a thick black border containing five horizontal lines for writing.

A horizontal rectangular box with a thick black border containing five horizontal lines for writing.

A horizontal rectangular box with a thick black border containing five horizontal lines for writing.

A vertical rectangular box with a thick black border containing ten horizontal lines for writing.



Middle: (evidence...evidence...evidence)

Category:

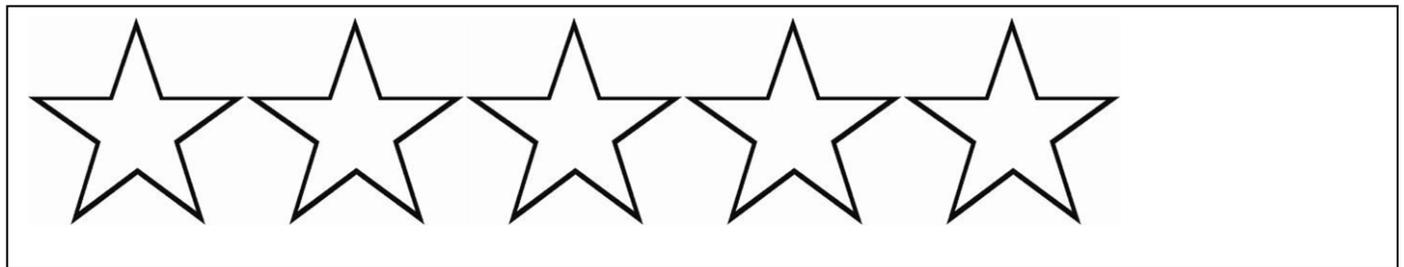
Category:

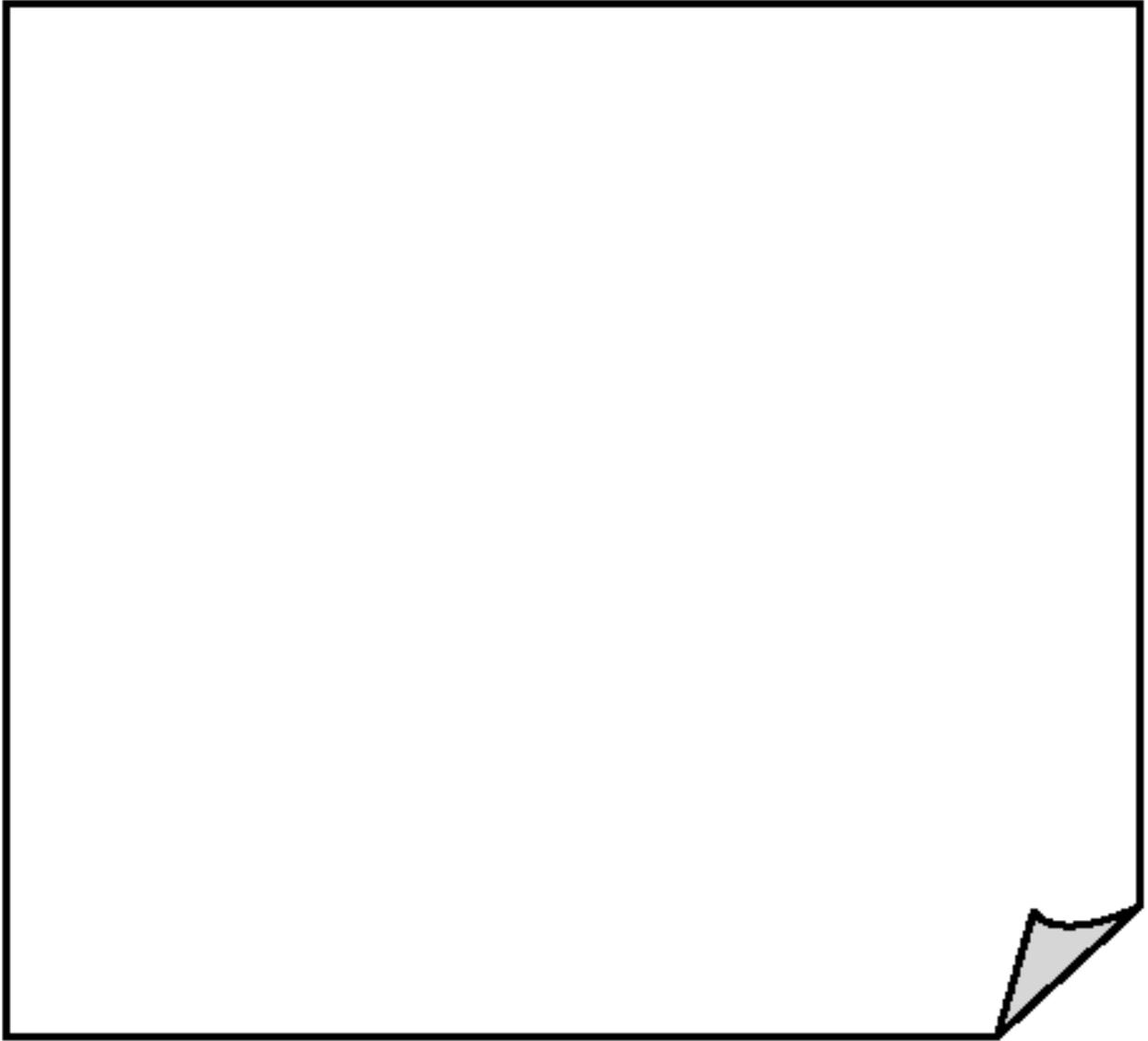
Category:

Teacher Resource 7C, Continued



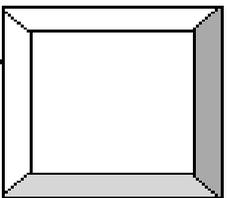
Ending:
(overall impression)





Reviewed by: _____

Date: _____

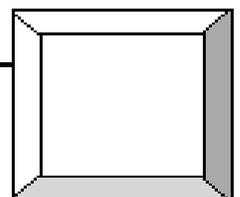


Blank rectangular box for a title or header.

Large rectangular box with a folded corner, intended for a drawing or illustration.

Five horizontal lines for writing, positioned to the right of the drawing box.

Eight horizontal lines for writing, spanning the width of the page.



Specialized Language Activity

This is perfect for readers who like mysteries.

The waitress served our food wearing roller skates.

This fantasy was published in 1999.

The hostess seated us immediately.

To get to the next level, jump up and slide over.

Multiple players can interact at the same time.

The big screen lights up with action.

The red carpet premiere was outstanding.

Movie Review

Video Game Review

Book Review

Restaurant Review

Linking Words

Connecting words or words that link ideas.

- and
- also
- because
- before
- but
- earlier
- finally
- first
- later
- next
- so
- soon
- then
- when
- after
- One of the first things...

Suggestion: Create list based on mentor text and what has been studied in reading.

Catchy Leads

Name _____ Date _____

Quote



Opinion



Name _____ Date _____

Question



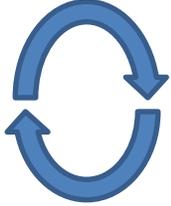
Rater's Knowledge



Strong Endings

Name _____ Date _____

Repetition

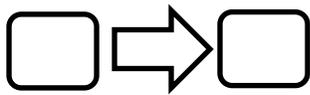


Raters Knowledge



Comparison

(What you like...if you like)



Revision Checklist Samples for Reviews

Develop a Revision Checklist based on teaching and learning points in this unit and previous writing units. The checklist may general items, things specific to the type of review, and/or a combination of both.

1. Develop a checklist specific to the type of review.

Source: Taylor, Sarah Picard. 2008. *A Quick Guide to Teaching Persuasive Writing: K-2*. Heinemann: Portsmouth, NH.

SAMPLES –

Please note: some items in a given review may be used in another type of review too, so pick and choose from all options.

A. Book or Movie Review Revision Checklist

- You wrote about the title, author, or director, main characters and setting.
- You wrote about the big problem and how the character changes or reacts to the problem.
- You included your opinion and the strong words that will persuade the audience.
- You made a connection with another book in this series, or another book or movie that is similar or different to the book or movie you reviewed.

B. Restaurant Review Revision Checklist

- You showed your passion or excitement for the piece you are reviewing.
- You wrote about your likes and dislikes about the restaurant (food, drinks, dessert, service, decorations)
- You described the target audience of who might like the restaurant.
- You included a comparison to another restaurant.

C. Video Game Review Revision Checklist

- You told about yourself as a reviewer and described your interest in video games.
- You wrote a summary or plot of the game.
- You wrote about your likes and dislikes of the game (graphics, fun to play, readability).
- You wrote some advice on getting to a higher level.
- You described a target audience of who would like the game.
- You wrote a comparison to another game like the one you described.

2. Develop a checklist that includes general items from any type of well written review.

Base the checklist on your teaching and learning points.

Teacher Resource 15, Continued

Examples of possible items:

- _____ You included your opinion and the strong words that will persuade the audience.
- _____ You support your opinion with reasons (# your reasons).
- _____ You included an introduction, body and conclusion (box the sections).
- _____ You included different categories for your review. Categories I used: __, __, etc.
- _____ You have a catchy lead. Lead type is _____
- _____ You have written some background information to give the reader a sense of your review.
- _____ You have a strong ending. Ending type is _____.
- _____ You added your overall experience.
- _____ You checked to be sure your sentences make sense.
- _____ You used specialize language. This tells the reader what kind of review s/he is reading.
- _____ You have at least one quote from another person to support your opinion.
- _____ You used linking words or phrases. (circle or list them)
- _____ You have a title for your review.
- _____ You made a comparison to another _____ like the one you described.
- _____ You described the target audience of who might like the _____ etc...

Name _____ Date _____ # _____

Opinion: Using the Power of Reviews – Editing Checklist

Title _____

I checked that....		My partner checked that...
	I have my name on my paper.	
	I capitalized proper nouns (names of people, places, product names, dates, holidays, and geographic names).	
	I used ending punctuation correctly and for meaning.	
	I used reference materials to check and correct my spelling.	
	I used apostrophes in contractions correctly. Example: I'm ready!	
	I used apostrophes in possessives correctly. Example: This is Sandy's book.	
	I used adverbs and adjectives.	

Student Reflections

Name of Reviewer _____ Date _____

Type of Review Wrote _____

Select some questions for students to reflect on based on their experience with reviews.

1. What was the reason you wrote this piece? (purpose)
2. Why should people read the review you wrote?
3. What have you learned about writing reviews?
4. What kind of research or support did you include?
5. What did you learn about reviews that you didn't know before?
6. What was hard for you?
7. What did you do very well?
8. If you had to write another review what would you do the same?
9. If you had to write another review what would you do different?

Mentor Text List for Reviews

Core Mentor Text – used repeatedly for modeling of lessons

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Family Fun at Cracker Barrel | 2 nd Grade Oakland Schools Writing Team |
| 2. Crumbs Bakery – long version | Taylor, Sarah Picard. 2008. <i>A quick guide to teaching persuasive writing</i> . Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann. |
| 3. Crumbs Bakery – | Taylor, Sarah Picard. 2008. <i>A quick guide to Simplified version teaching persuasive writing</i> . Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann. |

Other Suggested Mentor Text by Review Types

BOOK

- A Book Review of Officer Buckle and Gloria www.sonderbooks.com (simplified version)
- Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus www.spaghetlibookclub.org
- The Magic School Bus Gets Eaten www.sphaghetlibookclub.org

MOVIE

- Despicable Me www.kidsfirst.org
- Love the Love Story ‘Gnomeo & Juliet’ www.kidsfirst.org (simplified version)
- Shrek Forever After www.kidsfirst.org

RESTAURANT

- California Pizza Kitchen www.readingandwritingproject.com
- Crumbs Bakery (long version) Taylor, Sarah Picard
- Crumbs Bakery (simplified version) Taylor, Sarah Picard
- Family Fun at Cracker Barrel Oakland Schools Study Group
- McDonalds – Four Stars! www.rateitall.com
- Pizza Hut www.ezinearticles.com

TOURIST SPOT

- The Hershey Hotel is the Best! www.readingandwritingproject.com
- Detroit Science Center Oakland Schools Study Group

VIDEO GAME/COMPUTER GAME

- Game On! A Review of FIFA SOCCER 11 www.commonsemmedia.org
- New Super Mario Bros. Wii www.commonsemmedia.org

Rave Reviews by Jill Eggleton, 2001, Rigby – Sails Literacy Series (collection of Reviews written for young children)

Mentor Text List for Reviews, Continued

Favorite Websites that have Reviews for Children

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/lessonplan.jsp?id=1131> (sample food reviews)

www.commonensemedia.org

www.cyberkids.com (books only)

www.kidreads.com/reviews/index.asp (books only)

www.kidreviewer.com

www.kidsfirst.org

www.rateitall.com

www.readingandwritingproject.com (student work section)

www.spaghettibookclub.org (books only)

Please note: Rewrite reviews to be more “kid” friendly.

Family Fun at Cracker Barrel Restaurant Review

Have you ever been in the mood for country cooking? I recently had the pleasure of visiting the Cracker Barrel restaurant in Lansing Michigan. This restaurant offers delightful menu items, comfortable atmosphere and even shopping. Kids and parents will both love this restaurant.

Cracker Barrel is a cozy restaurant because it has soft chairs. It also has a fireplace that makes it feel like home. It's even decorated with pictures from long ago.

This place offers lots of food choices. The food is creatively displayed. For example, some of the breakfast items are served in little black skillet (pans). Also, the pancakes come shaped like Mickey Mouse. They have a fluffy whip cream mouth, a bright red cherry nose and chocolate chip eyes. Yummy! My mom even ordered soup that came in a bowl made of bread.

My only complaint is that the service was not very good. The reason we felt this way was because we had to wait for over an hour for a table. The lady did not tell us that the wait would be so long. This reminded me of the time we waited in a long, long line to see the dinosaurs at the museum. But, since we had to wait so long we got to shop at the restaurant store. There were things for kids and parents to buy. My sister said, "I liked shopping even better than the food."

If you like to eat at Bob Evans you are going to love Cracker Barrel. Even though the service wasn't spectacular the experience was great. I give the Cracker Barrel in Lansing Michigan four stars **** out of 5 stars*****. I recommend you visit Cracker Barrel soon!!!

Source: 2nd grade Oakland Schools Writing Team, April 2011

Sample Restaurant Review Crumbs Bakery (Long Version)

I could hardly wait for my first trip to Crumbs Bakery. I eat a cupcake at least once a week and I heard from my friends that Crumbs was a good place to visit. I was not disappointed. The cupcake looked and smelled beautiful, the service was friendly, and above all, the cupcakes were moist and sweet.

One of the first things you will notice is the sweet smell of cupcakes and the beautiful display cases. I opened the door, noticed the familiar smell of vanilla and chocolate, and was instantly reminded of the birthday parties of my childhood. Then, I moved over the large glass cases and saw a huge variety of large cupcakes. Crumbs sells colorful cupcakes like vanilla with rainbow sprinkles or rainbow M & Ms. They also sell several chocolate varieties. Gazers can choose from Chocolate Bomb, Snickers, Devil's Food, Oreo, and Chocolate with Cookie Dough. There are often specialty cupcakes like carrot cake, red velvet, Boston Cream, and Key Lime. The variety ensures everyone will find something to enjoy!

The staff at Crumbs works quickly to get your cupcakes. The bakery is a small narrow space with seating for about 15 people and the staff wants everyone to enjoy their experience. Whether a dad is getting a dozen cupcakes to go for a birthday party or if two friends want to sit and enjoy a sweet treat, the customers are greeted with a smile and quickly moved down the long line. The wait is never more than a few minutes and if your favorite cupcake seems to be sold out in the case, the staff will check the back bakery racks in the hopes you will be satisfied.

The flavor and texture of the Crumbs cupcakes is unmatched at any other upper west side bakery. The cakes are always moist and flavorful. The filled cupcakes have just enough filling to surprise you and the frosting is creamy but not too sweet.

If you like sweet treats, you will definitely want to make the trip to the upper west side for Crumbs cupcakes. The smells, the service and the taste will make you want to say, "When are we coming back here again?"

Source: Taylor, Sarah Picard. 2008. *A quick guide to teaching persuasive writing*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.



Crumbs Bake Shop Restaurant Review

Ben and Jerry's is famous for ice cream, Starbucks for coffee, and in my part of New York City, Crumbs is famous for cupcakes. Crumbs is the best bakery for cupcakes.

"When you walk in, you will see three shelves of cupcakes and they'll come in all the colors of the rainbow. You will smell the sweet, warm smell of newly baked cupcakes," said a customer that goes there at least twice a week.

The colorful cupcakes in the window suggest this shop is for kids, but one whiff of the fresh-baked air and everyone in your home will want to have a bite of these tasty treats.

Crumbs is the best bakery in my neighborhood because they have a beautiful display of all their cupcakes so you can see what is available.

The people who work at Crumbs are always friendly.

Another reason Crumbs is the best bakery is that the cupcakes are sweet but not too sweet, with the perfect amount of frosting, about a half of an inch!

Crumbs is the best bakery for cupcakes. It gets 5 stars out of 5 stars!

Simplified Version **Source:** Taylor, Sarah Picard. 2008. *A quick guide to teaching persuasive writing*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.



A Book Review of Officer Buckle and Gloria

Are you interested in a career as a police officer? Do you love dogs? If your answer is yes, then I have a book recommendation for you. I loved Officer Buckle and Gloria by Peggy Rathman and if you are like me, you will like it too!!

Officer Buckle collects safety tips. He goes to schools and reads them to children, but the children have trouble staying awake. Then Officer Buckle gets a buddy, a police dog named Gloria. Now, while Officer Buckle reads the safety tips, Gloria acts out the accidents behind his back. Suddenly, his speeches are a huge hit. One day he sees his speech on the news and decides that the kids love Gloria not him. He is devastated. To find out if their friendship survives...read the whole book.

The illustrations are really interesting because they are bright and colorful. Whether Gloria's hurling herself in the air or pretending to be electrocuted, nowhere will you find a dog with more expression! The pictures even have handwritten safety tips.

I also like the book because it is so funny. On many pages, there is something hilarious like someone slipping on a banana peel. They are also funny because Gloria is always doing silly things like cartwheels and headstands in the background.

The book has a good message. The book teaches kids about safety and friendship. When asked about the book, Mrs. DiMaggio said, "I read it to my kids every year, it has so much to teach kids of all ages." Most parents would let their kids read this book (the only reason they wouldn't is because it does show some kids misbehaving).

Officer Buckle and Gloria is a really great book!

If you like Good Night Gorilla, also by Peggy Rathman, you are also going to love this book. I give it 5 stars out of 5 stars. You should go to the library and check it out right **N-O-W!!!!**

Modified/Rewritten from its original form <http://www.sonderbooks.com/PictureBooks/officerbuckle.htm>

Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus

Written by Barbara Park

Illustrated by Denise Brunkus

Reviewed by Lauren C. (age 9)



"I DON'T WANT TO, I DON'T WANT TO!" Junie B. Jones does not want to take the bus to kindergarten. She does not want to go on the bus and she won't. Find out what she does when she is all alone in an empty school.

As an example of the way Junie B. thinks is; when Junie did not go on the bus, she did not think that she might get in trouble. She doesn't always think before she speaks either. Especially when she yelled right out in front of the teacher, "Hey! Watch it you dumb Jim."

I recommend this book to a person who enjoys being humored by an adventurous six year old with problems, and laugh about how she resolves them.

[Lauren C.](#) is a student in [Miss Michaels' 4th Grade Class](#)
[1999-2000](#)

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The Magic School Bus Gets Eaten

Written by Joanna Cole • Illustrated by Bruce Degen

Reviewed by Mac A (age 8)



Do you like to study fish? I like this book because they got eaten by a Tuna Fish! Mrs. Frizzle wants to take the kids in her class to the Ocean. She drives the magic school bus, but they fall into the water instead. They saw lots of fish plankton, zoo plankton, and phytoplankton. Arnold is a student in Mrs. Frizzle's class that was scared to go into the ocean. Arnold said the scum is phytoplankton. Phytoplankton are eaten by zooplankton. Zooplankton are eaten by anchovies. Anchovies are eaten by tuna!

I liked the book because it has food chains, and I like food chains. I think that the book is cool. It's all about underwater food chains, creatures under the water, and plants under the water. This book is like another book I read called, "The Magic School Bus on the Ocean Floor."

I think other people would want to read my book because my book is about food chains and science. A lot of people like science. I think scientists and archeologists would like this book because they are into science and they work in all kinds of different sciences.

[Mac A](#) is a member in [Page Turners After School Program / Rauschenbusch Center's Page Turners' Book Club \(2008-2009\)](#)

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Despicable Me

Description

Vying for the title of "World's Greatest Villain", Gru (voiced by Steve Carell) along with his hilarious crew of mischievous minions plots to pull off the craziest crime of the century: steal the moon! But when Gru enlists the help of three little girls, they see something in him nobody else has ever seen: the perfect dad. From executive producer Chris Meledandri (Horton Hears a Who, Ice Age), and featuring the voices of an all-star comedic cast, including Jason Segel, Russell Brand, Miranda Cosgrove and Julie Andrews, Despicable Me is "rousingly funny, heartfelt and imaginative" (Pete Hammond, Box office Magazine).

KIDS FIRST!® Adult Juror Comments:

Despicable Me is a Universal Studios movie directed by Pierre Coffin and Chris Renaud. It is written by Ken Daurio, Sergio Pablos, and Cinco Paul with voice-over of Steve Carrell as Gru, Jason Segel as Vector, Russell Brand as Dr. Nefario, Julie Andrews as Gru's mom, Kristen Wiig as Miss Hattie, Miranda Cosgrove as Margo, Dana Gaier as Edith, and Elsie Fisher as Agnes.

Despicable Me is about a man named Gru, who is the world's greatest villain until a young new villain named Vector steals the pyramids of Egypt. This antagonizes Gru, so he decides to hold his reputation by stealing the moon by using a shrink ray and a rocket. The only problem is Vector has the shrink ray which he stole from Gru, which Gru stole from the East Asia company. While Gru is spying on Vector's house, he sees three orphan girls delivering cookies for Vector. Gru immediately comes up with the perfect plan to steal the shrink ray: He adopts the three girls and has them deliver cookies to his house, and at the same time, Gru sneaks into the house to steal the shrink ray. His plan goes accordingly. As his minions (assistants) build the rocket for him to go to the moon, Gru forms a bond with his three new adopted daughters: Margo, Edith, and Agnes and they view Gru as the perfect father. Now, Gru has to choose between pursuing his dream of stealing the moon or going to his daughters' dance recital, since both important events are on the same day. Will Gru maintain his title of being the world's greatest villain or were Margo, Edith, and Agnes sweet enough to persuade Gru's cold heart to go to their dance recital? The technical aspects of the movie are superb. The animation of the movie is very lifelike. For example, the reflections of the characters looking at themselves in the windows and the foggy gray vivid smoke coming out of Gru's automobile. I also found the voice-over of the characters to be effective. The voice-over contained a lot of emotions and clearly portrayed the characters in the movie. However, the storyline of the movie is very silly. The message of the movie did not quite work out for me. I believe the message is that the coldest of hearts can be changed, but I did not find Gru to be a mean man. Several scenes portray him more as a failure. From his childhood, Gru has been put down by his mother, until now when the bank would not even give him a loan to build a rocket for him to steal the moon.

I would recommend this movie to children ages 9 and up because the movie uses a lot of big words that some children may not understand. For example, despicable, malicious, the movie mentions a formula about mass, etc.. However, the movie is a laugh out loud animated comedy, and you will find yourself giggling in most scenes. It is very funny and sweet and generally for everyone! Review by Gabriella Chu, KIDS FIRST! Video Review by KIDS FIRST! Kid Juror GABRIELLA CHU, Film Critic, age 15.

Love the Love Story ‘Gnomeo & Juliet’

The latest version of the classic love story “Romeo and Juliet” comes to animated life on the silver screen with gnomes as the main characters. Shakespeare’s play was rewritten *just for kids!* This movie is rated PG and perfect for any second grader. I **LOVE** this movie because it has adventurous characters; it’s funny and has great music.

My family and I laughed a lot. My mom commented, “This is the funniest movie I’ve seen in years.” Nanette the frog brought a lot of humor to this movie. I particularly liked her red lips and long eyelashes!

I loved all the music by Elton John because it got us dancing in our seats! For example, one of my favorite songs was “Crocodile Rock.”

I think one of the things that make this movie so great is adventurous characters. They are garden gnomes that come to life when the humans aren’t looking. Gnomeo, was very adventurous and ready to accept any challenge. Juliet was an attractive, brave, tough little cookie whose father, Lord Redbrick who is an over-protective father. He reminds me of my father!

I rate this movie 5 out of 5 stars. I thought it was hilarious, and engaging. I really connected with the characters. I recommend this movie to kids 5 and up, because it does have a few violent scenes. So If you want to laugh and listen to good music at the same time, you **must** see this one!

P.S. I want to give a special thanks to everyone at Studio Movie Grill in Holcomb Bridge (Atlanta area) for allowing my family and me to see this movie at their beautiful theater.

Rewritten from <http://www.kidsfirst.org/kidsfirstnews/category/feature-film-reviews/>

Shrek Forever

Description

Rumpelstiltskin tricks a mid-life crisis burdened Shrek into allowing himself to be erased from existence and cast in a dark alternate timeline where Rumpel rules supreme. Starring Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, Antonio Banderas, Julia Andrews, Jon Hamm, John Cleese and more.

KIDS FIRST!® Adult Juror Comments:

The folks at DreamWorks Animation have done it again with their (reportedly) last installment of the Shrek franchise Shrek Forever After in 3D. With its tongue-in-cheek humor, great soundtrack and talented voice cast, it rivals the original. This time around, Shrek and Fiona are the happy parents of precious ogre triplets and their lives appear perfect. . . until Shrek makes a deal with the delightfully devilish Rumpelstiltskin. He inadvertently trades one day of pre-marital freedom for his very existence, thus changing the course of history itself.

As we've come to expect from this franchise, there are belly laughs for adults and kids alike and a powerful message to boot, reminding us that we must appreciate what we have every single day. One word of caution, Rumpelstiltskin's henchmen are a coven of spooky witches and children who frighten easily may want to sit this one out.

KIDS FIRST!® KID Juror Comments:

Shrek Forever After is four stars in my book. It teaches us a very important lesson. My mom told me most people don't learn this until their adults. The lesson is "Realize what you have before you lose it." You should really watch this movie. It warmed my heart and made me laugh. New characters, funny voices, and even more fairytales. One character I loved is a classic character and I believe everyone will like him. Let's just say he gets Shrek angry with his voice and he love lollipops. I said too much already. But I also should mention something about the EVIL Rumpelstiltskin. He is quite the con man and loves to wear wigs. Angry, business, lunch wigs and more. So, hitch Donkey to the onion, leave the green witches at home and go to the theaters. Remember to put May 21st on your calendars. Shrek Forever After coming soon to a theater near you.

Critic's Name: Luna

Date: 4/03/09

Calafona pizza kichin

In Calafona pizza kichin it's always full kid eating pizza, grow up eating. People who work ther go quick and fast. Theres always people eating or taking mune! Calafona pizza kichin is the best! The chikin pizza have to be the best! The chikin pizza has extra cheaes and chikin and barbiq souse. And when kid order they have a free coloring mune and free crayon. And when you order the workers are fast! Once I was takeing a mune in another minit my food was ready also when I said "thank – you" It said "you are welcome back. Also each time I eat the pizza it is always worm. It is not to hot or cold for me it is just right. And it is a resteraut for familys. So everyone could go. So I would give this reateaut a five star! *****

Source: www.readingandwritingproject.com

McDonalds Four Stars!

My Review of my Mc Donald's meal.

I recently ate at Mc Donald's for dinner the junior cheeseburger taste good on the value menu. It was cook well and all the way threw thankfully. The problem was that it was so greasy that I had to use a paper towel to wipe off so of the grease. However, the taste was right on point. The cheeseburger had all of the ingredients that I wanted on my burger. Thanks Mc Donald's at 8th and Minnesota Avenue in Kansas City Kansas. The fries were so good of course and the two applepies don't even get me started on the two applepies. Were so, so good that they get a four stars a lone. I can't give the two applepies a five stars because they are so small. Please keep up the good work Mc donald's at 8th and Minnesota Avenue in Kansas City Kansas you get a four stars rating from me.

Read more: <http://www.rateitall.com/i-8675-mcdonalds.aspx#ixzz1Rx4urVGo>

Pizza Hut Review By [Sara Melone](#)

Pizza Hut to me and my family is something of a staple. They've been in operation over 50 years now, and I've been a patron for 30 of those years. Forget Zwieback Teething Toast, I cut my teeth on Pizza Hut pizza crust. For about 10 years straight, Friday nights in my house were Pizza Hut night complete with a large pepperoni and extra cheese crust.

For a while, I'll admit - I strayed. My body's needs changed and I desired a lighter, thinner crust. For those times, another famous pizza chain fit the bill. For a long while, I cleaned up my eating habits and saw pizza as the enemy and accordingly I stayed away. Since having married however, I have been drawn back in by a husband who is as married to Pizza Hut pizza as I once was.

Pizza Hut is probably best well-known for their pan pizza - named so because it is baked in a deep-dish pan. Its crust is thick, golden brown, crispy and glazed with a light coating of oil which, although perhaps not the best choice for healthy cholesterol, is irresistible in its crispy crackly texture.

Recently, I've reignited a love affair I once had with the salad bar that is available in most full-service Pizza Hut restaurants. I've always been a healthy consumer of vegetables thanks to constant offerings at the dinner table while I was growing up, but in recent years as I've uncovered all the health benefits of consuming fresh foods from nature, I've become somewhat obsessed and now crave vegetables as much as I sometimes crave chocolate.

Now, one of my favorite things to do with my husband is have dinner at our local Pizza Hut. He fills up on pizza and bread sticks. I gorge myself on lettuce, carrots, broccoli, bell peppers, cheese and a drizzle of dressing. Then I enjoy a slice or two of pepperoni pizza. That way I get the best of everything - fresh vegetable great for my health, cheesy irresistible pizza and a fully satisfied belly.

Pizza Hut's most recent transformation has been a highly publicized offering of pastas. Am I crazy, or does anyone else remember that Pizza Hut has always had spaghetti and ziti on the menu? OK, I understand - they're offering NEW pastas, and they want to make sure we know about it. Point taken.

Among the new pasta offerings are a rotini in a marina meat sauce, a chicken Alfredo, and a mac and cheese with bacon.

In my humble opinion, they are all delicious although I have to say the Alfredo chicken with its smooth, subtle cheese flavor is probably my favorite. The meaty marina has a somewhat spicy kick which is exciting on the taste buds, and the mac and cheese is creamy with a rich mouth-feel.

All of the pastas are baked, and come to the table with a lovely crust of golden baked cheesy deliciousness.

When delivered, an aluminum tin nestled inside a cardboard box keeps them hot and tasty until they reach your door. If you're a regular consumer of take-out, pasta delivered to your door is a great alternative to having pizza delivered.

Pizza Hut has come a long way from the dark wood paneling of 20 years ago. They are emerging with a new image to meet the demands of a new generation, and if they keep turning out great pizza, fresh salad and terrific pasta, I pledge that future generations of my family will also get the chance to cut their teeth on a nice, thick pizza crust (and maybe a piece of broccoli for a well-balanced nosh).

www.ezinearticles.com/?Pizza-Hut-Review&id=2580976

Article Source: http://EzineArticles.com/?expert=Sara_Melone

Sara Melone is the founder and creator of <http://www.LifeAdviceSite.com>, offering information and advice to empower better choices about food, relationships, fitness and personal growth. More than just self improvement but everyday life improvement!

Review Mentor Text 13

To see a review on Hershey Hotel, please go to www.readingandwritingproject.com.

Michigan Science Center

Have you ever been to the Michigan Science Center? I recently visited this museum in Detroit, Michigan and it was amazing! They have hands on experiments, a music room, live demonstrations and even a kid's town, just for kids.

My favorite was the live demonstration. A scientist showed us how electricity travels. He turned off the lights and flipped a switch and lightening hit a long pole. It was very interesting.

If you like science, getting your hands dirty and seeing amazing larger than life experiments the Michigan Science Center is the place for you.

Source: Oakland Schools Writing Team, 2011

Game on!

A Review of FIFA SOCCER 11

“This game is just like playing soccer for REAL” said the clerk who sold the game to my mom. Now that I have also played, I totally agree! Authenticity is the name of the game in FIFA SOCCER 11, the latest soccer simulation from EA Sports. It is played on Xbox 360 or you can buy a version for PS3 (I have the Xbox 360). For a cost of about \$50.00, you can’t beat this game. Whether you are a kid or even grown-up this game will be perfect for you. If you **like** soccer, you will **love** this game!

The “goal” of the game is to win the championship, what else! As with past titles in this award-winning series, gamers have access to a huge roster of players -- more than 15,000 of them! Also, gamers can assume role of player, coach or both, and take advantage of lots of online co-op or competitive modes. An online leaderboard shows your place among others in 32 areas such as faster goal, winning streaks, and so on. If you want to WIN, you’ve got to play!

The physics of the game are outstanding because the revised passing mechanic that focuses on the control pad offers greater accuracy. Plus the improved physics allow you to have true 360-degree control of the player, even down to fighting for possession of the ball.

The graphics are sweet too because you can create your own jersey. You can pick from like 500 professional teams or make one that is completely unique. Also customized chants (for which you can play your own music tracks) are neat. But my favorite part of the graphics is making your own celebration animations. The only thing I don’t like about the graphics is that sometimes the players move in weird ways that don’t seem normal but it doesn’t take away from the overall experience.

This game is an improvement compared to FIFA Soccer 10. In my opinion it is 4 out of 5 stars! So, slip on some virtual cleats for one of the finest FIFA games in history!

Adapted from an original review located at www.commonsemmedia.org/game-reviews/fifa-soccer-11

New Super Mario Bros. Wii - A Video Game Review

I play a TON of video games, so when I say New Super Mario rocks, you know it is true!!! New Super Mario Brothers for the Wii is based on a popular video game from a long time ago that Nintendo has brought back, only now it is better than before. You get to fight, jump and climb through the Mushroom kingdom to save the princess. It is rated “E” for everyone so even your little sister can play. It costs about \$50.00 and you can buy it at Target, K-mart or Meijer. New Super Mario Bros. Wii is easy to pick up and hard to put down. This game is totally fabulous!

With Super Mario Bros you will never be bored because it features more than 80 colorful levels! Worlds range from lush green towns to cloud-filled skies, dry deserts to icy levels, dark dungeons, and so on. My dad even said, “I remember Mario from when I was a kid, I loved the water level.”

There are lots of ways to play. You can play alone or you can play with up to four friends at the same time. There are even some functions that require to people to cooperate to be successful like the seesaw. You are not just competing against each other sometimes you are working together.

This game includes many well-hidden secrets and **surprises** as a reward to those who explore. It could be extra coins and power-ups, underground caverns or . . . the ability the warp to future worlds.

Super Mario Bros is pretty easy to play. Gamers simply hold the Wii Remote sideways to control their character, pressing the 1 and 2 buttons to jump or shoot, and shaking the controller to float around.

Wii is an extraordinary game. I give it 5 stars. I can’t think of anything about it I don’t love! Put this game on the top of your birthday list, you won’t be sorry!!!

Adapted from an original review at www.common sense media.org/game-reviews/new-super-mario-bros-wii

Name of Reviewer _____ Date _____

Type of Review Wrote _____

Student Reflections on Opinion – Review Writing

Select some questions for students to reflect on based on their experience with reviews.

1. What was the reason you wrote this piece? (purpose)
2. Why should people read the review you wrote?
3. What have you learned about writing reviews?
4. What kind of research or support did you include?
5. What did you learn about reviews that you didn't know before?

Other possible questions:

6. What was hard for you?
7. What did you do very well?
8. If you had to write another review what would you do the same?
9. If you had to write another review what would you do different?

2nd Grade –Opinion: Using the Power of Reviews Unit Proficiency Checklist

Name: _____ Date: _____

Proficiency checklists guide teachers on what to provide instruction and additional assistance on during the unit, as well as beyond the unit. See Proficiency Guidelines in the K-2 Writing Assessment Package for additional information

What are this writer's strengths?	What are the next teaching points for this writer?
--	---

Approaching Proficiency with Opinion: Using the Power of Reviews

- Does not yet meet requirements for Proficient

Proficient (Meets Standards) with Opinion: Using the Power of Reviews

Proficient students must meet all bold and 1 of 2 un-bolded proficient criteria

- (T) Clearly states an opinion (Sessions 2)**
- (T) Includes 2-3 categories relevant to type of review (Sessions 3, 4, 5, 8)**
- (T) Supplies a reason for each category with support (Sessions 3, 4, 5)**
- (T) Provides solution (closure of opinion) (Immersion, Session 12)**
- (T) Uses specialized vocabulary relevant to type of review (Session 9)**
- (T) Includes evidence of interview (i.e. Direct quote) (Session 6)
- (T) Includes voice and specialized vocabulary of a reviewer (Session 9)
- (T) Uses linking words (and, also, because) (Session 10)**
- (T) Includes an effective lead and concluding statement (Sessions 11, 12)**
- (P) Evidence of revision (Session 15)**

See page 26 of the ELA CCSS document for all 2nd grade Language Standards

Exceeding Proficiency with Opinion: Using the Power of Reviews

Students must meet all the Proficient and Exceeding Proficiency criteria

- (T) Includes 4 or more categories relevant to type of review (Sessions 3, 4, 5, 8)**
- (T) Supplies multiple reasons for each category with support (Sessions 3, 4, 5)**
- (T) Includes evidence of interview (i.e. Direct quote) must have 2 or more quotes (Session 6)
- (T) Uses linking words and/or phrases (therefore, since, for example, etc.) (Session 10)**
- (T) Uses linking words or phrases to connect opinion to reasons (this is important, this shows that, in addition) (Session 10)**
- (T) Includes effective lead and concluding section (more than 1 sentence) (Sessions 11, 12)**
- (R) Includes comparison (when appropriate) (Session 14)
- (P) Revises for clarity (Session 15)**

T-Text Types and Purposes **R**-Research to Build and Present Knowledge **P**-Production and Distribution of Writing **L**-Language

Created by Melissa Wing, Genesee Intermediate School District, Kathy Smith, Bendle Public Schools, Pam Bachner and Aimee Torok, Grand Blanc Schools. (Updated July 2013)