

Writing About Reading- Informational Companion Book Assignment

A companion book is a book that accompanies and elaborates on another already published book. The goal of a companion book is to provide a reader with a deeper understanding of concepts, themes, characters, places and ideas in the original work.

Your goal is to write a companion book about The Lions of Little Rock. It will be due before we go to Spring Break at the end of March. It will need to be typed and you may need to do some work at home as well as in school.

The parts you will need to include:

1. A title page
2. A table of contents
3. A general introduction
4. 4-5 Chapters
 - a. One must be about theme
 - b. One may be a fan fiction
 - c. All must be multi paragraph and follow the appropriate structure (ACES)
 - d. Specific quotes must be included in all informational chapters and properly cited
5. A general conclusion

Writing About Reading Informational Writing Checklist

	Grade 7	Not Yet	Trying To	Yes!
	Structure			
Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze mentor texts to determine important attributes of the genre and make decisions about my own writing. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct question based research to gather information and with a specific perspective 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use planning strategies to guide research and drafting of informative writing. 			
Revision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edit to eliminate wordiness and redundancy in text of self and others. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I determined what information to add or eliminate in order to clarify and support the main point presented. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ I expanded sentences by adding phrases and clauses, punctuating them correctly. 			
Editing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ I checked spelling including grade level appropriate words, technical terms and I was careful with the spelling of citations. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ I varied my sentence structure, sometimes using simple and sometimes using compound or complex sentence structure 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ I used punctuation appropriately including: commas, quotation marks (quotes), dashes, parentheses, colons and semicolons. 			

Writing About Reading Informational Writing Checklist Continued

	Grade 7	Not Yet	Trying To	Yes!
	Structure			
Overall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I wrote a piece that provides both perspective (my ideas/point of view) and information. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I incorporated a variety of text structures as needed including sequence, cause and effect, problem solution, compare and contrast, and description 			
Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I engaged the reader by explaining the significance of my topic, or by providing a compelling fact, statistic or anecdote 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I made it clear what parts of the topic would be included in this text and how the ideas and information would unfold throughout the text 			
Transitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I used transitions to link concepts with related information to help the reader follow from part to part and make clear when information is part of a bigger idea. Transitions might: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *show how an idea follows from or links back to an earlier point * introduce a new idea * suggest a contrast <p>Possible transition words might include: specifically, for instance, related to, just as, turning to, on the other hand, however, etc.</p>			
Ending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My conclusion reinforced and built on the main points in a way that made the entire piece feel complete. I might have restated my points, responded to them, or highlighted their significance 			
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I focused my writing on a subtopic or a particular point or two. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ I organized my piece into parts and used structures (sequence, cause and effect, problem solution, compare and contrast, and description) to organize those parts 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ I used introductions, topic sentences and transitions to clarify structure of the piece or to highlight main points. 			
	Development			
Elaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ I included varied kinds of information such as facts, quotes, examples and definitions. I analyzed or explained the information 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ I analyzed or explained the information to show how it fit with my key points or main ideas 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ I cited my sources 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ I worked to make my topic compelling to the reader. I brought out why my topic matters and why the audience should care about it. 			
Craft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ I used words purposefully and precisely to affect meaning and tone. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ I used metaphors, anecdotes, images or comparisons to explain or illustrate what I mean. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ I used domain-specific or technical vocabulary and defined those words when appropriate. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ I used a formal tone but varied it appropriately to engage the reader. 			

