

## **Writing Practice in Science Example: Erosion & Science in the News Learning Choices**

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**Purpose:** To increase opportunities for independent writing in science.

### **Management Tips:**

- Introduce the learning choices after students have completed a similar assignment either in a different unit or in a different class, such as ELA or Social Studies. This way, the expectations for each learning choice are established prior to using the learning choice board. It would take too much time to teach students how to complete each choice all at once.
- There are many advantages to reusing assignments in student choice boards. Students enjoy doing an assignment a second time, when they can focus on the content and not the procedure of the assignment. Students also see relationships among courses and teacher expectations when common assessments/tasks/assignments are used across subject areas.

### **Sample Common Core Standards Addressed:**

Writing

K-5 Anchor Standards

Text Types and Purposes

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.

### **Production and Distribution of Writing**

- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

### **Range of Writing Grade 10**

- Write routinely over extended time frames (time for reflection and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

### **Key Ideas Grade 11 \* Newspaper article**

- Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; summarize complex concepts, processes, or information presented in a text by paraphrasing them in simpler but still accurate terms.

### **Craft and Structure Grade 11**

- Analyze how the text structures information or ideas into categories or hierarchies, demonstrating understanding of the information or ideas.
- Analyze the author's purpose in providing an explanation, describing a procedure, or discussing an experiment in a text, identifying important issues that remain unresolved.

**Writing Practice in Science Example: Erosion**

Directions: Complete three tasks in a row for a Tic-Tac-Toe.

Criteria: All tasks must be complete, use accurate information on erosion, meet writing goals criteria identified in the Writing Rubric, and use specific details.

Perspective	Flowing Water	Earth Materials	Traveler
Teacher and Students	Create a three-part picture timeline showing how erosion takes place over time to help students understand how erosion happens. Include a description under the picture that describes how and why erosion is taking place.	Locate a place where there is beautiful evidence of erosion. Create a postcard from that beautiful place to encourage school groups to visit (for example, the Grand Canyon). Create an assignment that the art teacher would use to help students notice the beauty in the erosion, explain how the beauty is created, and make a work of art that communicates similar type of beauty.	Write a persuasive letter encouraging the teacher to take a field trip with the students to see erosion in their community. Describe all of the places where erosion can be seen and signs of erosion students be able to find.
Traveler	Create a song about erosion.	Create a traveler guide including a map and explanation of the erosion that he/she might see on a trip to a specific place.	Write a journal entry of a traveler describing where he/she has hiked, the erosion that was seen there, and a guess as to why the erosion is occurring.
Science Museum	Write an article for the museum's newsletter reporting on how erosion is changing the environment or a community.	Bring in or make an artifact that should be included in the Science Museum's exhibition on erosion. Include an item entry card describing what the item is, the age, and why the object is important to the process of erosion.	Create a photo-journalism magazine article showing erosion in the city. Make sure that the pictures help us understand how erosion takes place and why erosion is important.