

Writing Lesson Plan

(using Essential Question Format)

Title	Powerful Writing, Powerful Communicating
Grade:	Subject: Language Arts/Writing
Overview	Students will write a thank you note to naturalists from Rancho El Chorro after having participating in the Chumash life field trip, and having accessed further information on Chumash life on the internet.
Essential Question	What is different about communicating through the written word vs. communicating in person?
Subsidiary Questions	When might a letter be a better way of communicating than a face to face event? What can happen in writing that cannot happen in person?
Connection to Standards	<p>Subject Matter Standard Language Arts/Writing</p> <p>2.3 Write personal and formal letters, thank-you notes, and invitations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Show awareness of the knowledge and interests of the audience and establish a purpose and context. b. Include the date, proper salutation, body, closing, and signature. <p>Technology Standard Technology research tools</p> <p>Students use technology to locate, evaluate, and collect information from a variety of sources.</p>
Assessment	<p>How will students demonstrate understanding of the issues raised in this lesson, particularly in terms of the essential question? (Rubric to be included)</p> <p>Students will actually write an authentic letter, and afterwards reflect in writing on its effectiveness.</p> <p>Rubric will include aspects of 6-trait writing, as well as the specific requirements of the 3rd grade letter-writing standard. A student reflection is also included on the rubric.</p>
Activities/Tasks Procedures	<p>What will students and teacher do? Be specific and provide a step-by-step process for student tasks and activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) We will become introduced to background information about the Chumash through the textbook, and hard copy information from the Santa Maria Natural History Museum. 2) Students will participate in a field trip at Rancho El Chorro, <p>where naturalists will take them through a series of activities and demonstrations that</p>

	<p>will “bring life to” the Chumash culture.</p> <p>3) Afterwards, students will view and interact with a primary source Chumash PowerPoint which will provide links to the both the “Chumash Life” section of the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum, and “chumashlanguage.com”, where they can capitalize and continue building upon the specific interests they began forming before and during the field trip to further their knowledge about Chumash life and culture.</p> <p>4) Students will write (pen and paper) thank you letters to the naturalist who helped them during the field trip. Special attention will be paid to describing something specific they enjoyed about the trip, and developing an individual inquiry to broach with the naturalist.</p> <p>5) Students will perform a self-assessment on their writing, including a reflection regarding the relative merits of handwritten letters, email and oral communication for the purposes of conveying gratitude.</p> <p>What technology integration strategies are used?</p> <p>PowerPoint presentation and internet usage will be related to the Chumash unit</p>
	<p>What student work will be generated, particularly in terms of portfolio artifacts for assessment?</p> <p>Letters to naturalist</p> <p>Student assessment as part of final reflection (students will place red check in each box of rubric, in addition to writing a reflection on the relative merits of different ways of expressing gratitude.)</p>
<p>Teacher Commentary Reflection</p>	<p>What problems do you anticipate with this lesson?</p> <p>The only problem I might foresee with this lesson would be in whether we would get good response from the naturalist(s) from Rancho El Chorro in terms of follow-up answers to the questions generated in the students’ letters. I think that communicating beforehand with the staff, and determining how (and when) it would be best for them to respond would likely prevent even this from being a problem.</p> <p>How will this lesson fit into your overall curriculum planning?</p> <p>Next school year, I plan to begin the year with a much more full inquiry into Chumash life and culture. I will make sure that the field trip is scheduled early in the school year, but will give us ample time to do the academic investigating beforehand. Also, the PowerPoint will provide a structured, scaffolded way for them to interact with a PowerPoint presentation, as well as to use the internet. These will be good introductions to both of these skills for students who will have had minimal experience with either.</p>

My Thank You Letter Assessment

✓ **My Check**

✓ **Mrs. Cota's Check**

	1	2	3	4
	<i>Below Proficiency</i>	<i>Approaching Proficiency</i>	<i>Proficient</i>	<i>Advanced</i>
Voice, Sentence Fluency, Word Choice	I will have to put much more effort into making my sentences and word choices interesting.	I could have put more effort into writing an interesting letter, with carefully chosen words & sentences.	The naturalist will read friendly words, and my sentences are carefully written.	The naturalist will feel as if s/he <u>knows</u> the writer of this letter. My words & sentences are carefully chosen & interesting.
Ideas & Content	It is not clear that I have been thinking about my Chumash learning	I have included 1 of the 3: 1)A smart question 2)A smart connection 3)A smart thank you	I have included 2 of the 3: 1)A smart question 2)A smart connection 3)A smart thank you	I have included all 3: 1)A smart question 2)A smart connection 3)A smart thank you
Organization	It is difficult to tell that I have written a letter.	My letter is neat & easy to read. I have included 2 out of the 4: 1)proper salutation 2) body 3) closing 4) signature	My letter is fairly neat & easy to read. I have included 3 out of the 4: 1)proper salutation 2) body 3) closing 4) signature	My letter is neat & easy to read. I have included: 1)proper salutation 2) body 3) closing 4) signature
Conventions	My spelling, punctuation & sentence structure is poor.	Some of my spelling, punctuation & sentence structure is good.	Most of my spelling, punctuation & sentence structure is good.	My spelling, punctuation & sentence structure is excellent.

On a piece of lined paper, please write a reflection:

Was writing a paper/pencil thank you letter a good idea? Would saying thank you nicely after the field trip have worked just as well? What about e-mail? Would that have worked as well as a paper/pencil letter? Tell why you think what you think.