

Color Coding an Opinion

Targeted Standards:

W.3.1 – Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

W.4.1 -- Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

W.5.1 – Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

Procedure:

The following strategy is helpful to use prior to having students write an opinion piece. Students need to see samples of opinion writing as well as modeled examples before they are equipped to write opinion pieces.

1. Provide students with a sample piece of writing where an opinion is stated.
2. Establish a color coding system such as:
Blue: Opinion statement
Yellow: Reasons supporting opinion
3. Guide students to highlight the sample using the above coding system.
4. If color coding is not possible, consider circling, underlining, numbering, or using annotation symbols. (Students can star* the opinion and number the reasons, etc...)
5. This process will help students identify structures of opinion writing.

Attachments/Resources:

Samples of student writing can be found at:

<http://www.thewritesource.com/> - Click on Student Models

http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_C.pdf

Reference/Research:

Adapted from Zwiers, J. (2004). *Developing academic thinking skills in grades 6-12*. Newark, DE: International Reading Association.