**5th Grade – UNIT 5**

**Opinion Writing with Research Task**

***Space Tourism***

**TEACHER INFORMATION:**

**Ideas to Share with Students:**

In this unit we have been reading many different types of fiction and nonfiction literature including stories, informational articles, opinion pieces, blogs, and viewing videos. You have been asked to respond to what you have read or viewed by sharing your opinion (making a claim). Sometimes you have been asked to describe how different points of view of a narrator or speaker influence how events are described. In addition, you have also been analyzing multiple accounts of the same event or topic, noting important similarities and differences in the opinions they represent. Most importantly you have learned to conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

1. First, the class will view a video and students will take notes on page 2 of the student packet. The title of this 3:35 video is called, ***“Space Tourism: Will It Fly?”*** This video may be viewed more than once. <http://content.time.com/time/video/player/0,32068,1649751671001_2115295,00.html>
2. Second, students will continue to participate in research on public space tourism by reading a blog titled, **“*Space Tourism*”** found on page 3 of the student packet.
3. Finally, students will read the persuasive essay titled “***An-Out-of-This-World Vacation***” on pages 4 – 6 of the student packet.
4. Students will be asked to **write an opinion essay** on the topic of public space tourism. In the essay, students will be using facts and details from the video, from the blog, and from the persuasive essay to support their opinion. ***Do you think public space tourism is a good idea? Why or why not?***

**Overview of the Writing Task:**

W**rite an opinion essay** on the topic of space tourism. In your essay you will be using facts and details from the persuasive essay, from the video and from the blog to support your opinion. ***Do you think public space tourism is a good idea? Why or why not?***

**Graphic Organizers:**

**Teachers and/or students may select the graphic organizer of their choice for planning this task. Several examples of graphic organizer planners for opinion, informative/explanatory, and narrative story writing have been uploaded into Rubicon.**