**Kindergarten – Unit 7a**

**Informative/Explanatory Writing with**

**Shared Research**

***The American Flag***

**TEACHER INFORMATION**

**Ideas to Share with Students:**

In the ***Literacy by Design*** program **Theme 13** and **Theme 14** students read both fiction and nonfiction stories about Celebrating Our Country. For example, Theme 13 explores friendships and diversity in America through stories such as; ***My House is Your House, I am American, Ira Sleeps Over, Enemy Pie*** and ***Chester’s*** ***Way.*** In Theme 14 the nonfiction text focuses on what is special about our country through texts such as; ***Our Country Flag, Happy Birthday America, F is for Flag, The Pledge of Allegiance*** and ***Betsy Ross.* Note: Teachers may substitute titles that are familiar to their students.**

In this end-of-unit writing task, students will write an informative report that tells one thing they learned about the American Flag. Remember that when authors write informative or explanatory pieces they aim to teach readers about a topic. You, too, have been learning to write in such a way that you can teach others about the American Flag. It is important to ask, “What is the best way to organize my writing from beginning to end to help my readers learn about my topic?”

**Shared Research:**

**Shared Research:** Teachers may want to use the book **“*F is For Flag”*** for this shared research task. Students will use information from the shared research to help them write their report.

**Overview of the Writing Task:**

Write one thing you learned about the American Flag. Be sure to:

* Draw a picture to show what you are writing about.
* Name the topic you are writing about.
* Supply some information about the topic.

**Supporting Beginning Writers in Gaining Independence:**

Teachers may wish to use the criteria on this checklist or develop an alternative checklist with pictures to help beginning writers remember everything they learned using pictures and words to write an informative piece.

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| **Kindergarten Informative/Explanatory Self-Assessment Checklist**I use pictures and words to tell about a topic. |
|  |  | **NOT YET** | **STARTING** | **YES!** |
| **Introduction (W.K.1)** | I told, drew pictures, and named what my topic was about. |  |  |  |
| **Elaboration****(W.K.1)** | I told, drew pictures, and wrote important information about my topic. |  |  |  |
| **Transitions\* (W.K.1)** | I put several things I knew about the topic on my page. |  |  |  |
| **Conclusion\* (W.K.1)** | I wrote an ending. |  |  |  |
| **Task Focus** | My whole paper is about one topic.  |  |  |  |
| **Grammar Usage (L.K.1)** | I used words correctly to help the reader understand my writing.  |  |  |  |
| **(L.K.1f)** | I used complete sentences. I used bigger sentences to make my writing interesting. |  |  |  |
| **Punctuation (L.K.2)** | I put spaces between my words.  |  |  |  |
| I used lowercase letters unless capitals were needed. |  |  |  |
| I wrote capital letters to start every sentence. I wrote a capital “I” for the word “I.” |  |  |  |
| **Spelling** **(L.K.2)** | I could read my writing. |  |  |  |
| I wrote a letter for the sounds I heard. |  |  |  |
| I spelled no excuse words correctly. |  |  |  |
| \*Beyond Kindergarten Informative/Explanatory Writing Expectations. |
| *Adapted from the work of Lucy Calkins’ Units-of-Study by East Otero School District Re-1* |

**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.

**Example of a Shared Research Planner:**

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| **Topic: The American Flag** |
| **F is For Flag** | **Information:** |
| **How Many Stars and Stripes are on the Flag?** |  |
| **Has Our Flag Changed?** |  |
| **Why Do We Fly Our Flag?** |  |
| **What Do We Call Our Flag?** |  |
| **Where Can I See the Flag?** |  |
| **Who Owns the Flag?** |  |