

THE ULTIMATE SPORTS SHOWDOWN

Developed by:

Laura Wright – 2016 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™

Discipline / Subject:

Language Arts

Topic:

Opinion Writing

Grade Level:

4th grade – can be adapted for any grade level

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

1. www.iditarod.com
2. www.kidrex.org
3. 8 Traits of Iditarod: <http://iditarod.com/?s=8+traits>
4. Checkpoint Protocol: <http://iditarod.com/teacher/checkpoint-protocol-and-dog-care-by-stuart-nelson-jr-dvm/>
5. Veterinary Center: <http://iditarod.com/about/veterinary-center/>
6. <http://www.photosforclass.com>
7. <http://pic-collage.com>
8. <https://livebooklet.com/index-lb.php>
9. <https://issuu.com>
10. *The Featherduster*: <http://issuu.com/fdonline/docs/mayissue>
11. <http://livebooklet.com/theultimateshowdown#page=0>
12. Tablets or computers
13. Paper or Writer's Notebooks for rough drafts
14. Venn Diagram sheets
15. <http://www.quickrubric.com>

Lesson Summary:

Students will research about the Iditarod and another sport, race, or game and write an opinion piece comparing the two.

Standards Addressed:

Common Core State Standards – CCSS

Lesson can be adapted for other grade levels:

<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/>

4th Grade:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1

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

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1.A

Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer's purpose.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1.B

Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1.C

Link opinion and reasons using words and phrases (e.g., *for instance, in order to, in addition*).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1.D

Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.

Texas State Standards – TEKS

Lesson can be adapted for other grade levels:

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter110/index.html>

4th Grade:

(19) Writing/Persuasive Texts. Students write persuasive texts to influence the attitudes or actions of a specific audience on specific issues. Students are expected to write persuasive essays for appropriate audiences that establish a position and use supporting details.

Alaska State Standards

Lesson can be adapted for other grade levels:

https://education.alaska.gov/akstandards/standards/akstandards_elaandmath_080812.pdf

4th Grade:

1. Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with fact- or text- based reasons and information (e.g., The character ___ was brave because she ____).

a. Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer's purpose.

b. Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.

c. Link opinion and reasons using words and phrases (e.g., *for instance, in order to, in addition*).

d. Provide a concluding statement or section that reinforces or restates the opinion presented.

Learning Objectives:

1. Use research techniques to learn about Iditarod from www.iditarod.com
2. Students will research another sport, race, or game using a safe site such as www.kidrex.org.
3. Students will compare and contrast the two and write an opinion/persuasive paragraph.
4. Students will form an opinion about the best sport and explain why they feel that way in their concluding sentences.

Assessment:

1. Teacher created rubric such as: <http://www.quickrubric.com>

Procedural Activities

1. The teacher should first look at *The Featherduster* magazine, “The Ultimate Showdown” and our class book, “The Ultimate Sports Showdown” online for inspiration.

The Featherduster: <http://issuu.com/fdonline/docs/mayissue>

<http://livebooklet.com/theultimateshowdown#page=0>

2. The teacher and students should brainstorm a list of all the sports, races, and games they can think of.
3. From that list, students need to choose one sport, race, or game to compare to the Iditarod.
4. Students will use the websites in this lesson plan on www.iditarod.com to help them understand the race. Students will use a safe site such as www.kidrex.org to research the other sport.
5. Students will find 3 interesting facts about Iditarod, and their other sport, that make it unique and special.
6. Optional: Students can put their information into a Venn diagram first, to compare and contrast the two.
7. For our opinion writing, we wrote a paragraph for each sport. Students wrote an introductory sentence, 3 interesting facts, and then an opinion in the concluding sentence. Their opinion should explain which is the better sport and why.
8. We wrote our paragraphs in two columns in the Pic Kids app.
9. At the top, we added a photo of each sport from www.PhotosforClass.com with attributed citations at the bottom.
10. Iditarod photos are also available online at www.iditarod.com
11. Optional: we created an online magazine from our documents. First, I put them into a PDF format, and then I uploaded them into www.Livebooklet.com, which created a unique URL address for our book to share.

Materials Students Need:

1. Tablets or computers for research
2. Writer’s Notebook for rough drafts
3. Optional: Venn diagram

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:

Teachers can use *The Featherduster* magazine as an example:

1. The Featherduster: <http://issuu.com/fdonline/docs/mayissue>

Other sites and articles that can be utilized:

2. www.iditarod.com
3. www.kidrex.org
4. 8 Traits of Iditarod: <http://iditarod.com/?s=8+traits>
5. Checkpoint Protocol: <http://iditarod.com/teacher/checkpoint-protocol-and-dog-care-by-stuart-nelson-jr-dvm/>
6. Veterinary Center: <http://iditarod.com/about/veterinary-center/>
7. <http://www.photosforclass.com>
8. <http://pic-collage.com>

If you want to create a digital magazine with the finished writing, you can use several free, online sites to create it:

1. <https://livebooklet.com/index-lb.php>
2. <https://issuu.com>

Other Information:

Students can create a class book on paper instead of a digital magazine online. They can also write their paragraphs and draw pictures instead of using technology.

Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities:

Modified:

For special learners, this project can be completed together, or as a class. The teacher can have a list of qualities of the Iditarod and other sports already researched. The student can choose 3 from the list to include in their writing.

Enrichment:

In our project, we used Pic Collage to create our magazine, but space is limited. For students that need more of a challenge, I would recommend using a Word document and increasing the writing expectations. Instead of 3 facts, the teacher can require 5 or more facts to include. Students can also share their writing with others and have students vote based upon their research. Then, students can create a bar graph showing the data.