

Source 1

Name: _____

Date: _____

V.I.P.

Nightly News

News Anchor: Tonight we're joined by two guests who had a great time at the town fair last weekend. Our first guest is Aaron Haynes. Aaron, what were some of your favorite parts of the fair?

Aaron Haynes: Thanks, Jessica. This fair was full of fantastic activities. For starters, I had a great time in the corn maze. Local farmers spent weeks building their cornfield into a giant maze. I got lost in the maze for an hour, but I made it out in the end! Corn mazes are great fun for people of all ages to play outside and try to solve the maze. Plus, they look absolutely beautiful from the air.

I also really liked the downhill trike race. Kids and adults of all ages rode tricycles down a super steep and winding hill. It was fun to do, and silly to watch! I love events like the trike race because it's just pure excitement and fun that brings everyone together.



News Anchor: Thanks for sharing, Aaron! It definitely sounds like you had a great time. Lots of activities and thrills at the fair. For another perspective, we go now to Sarah Torres. Sarah, how was the fair for you?

Sarah Torres: Thanks, Jessica! I had an amazing time at the fair, too. Fairs are great places to learn more about your town and local community. For starters, I went to the farm animal show space. Local farmers were there with their animals. I got to meet all sorts of animals that create the products we eat every day, like milk and eggs. There was even a beekeeper there who taught me all about local bee populations, and about how beekeepers take care of bees and harvest honey. I had no idea that so many of the products at the grocery store are actually produced right here by farmers in town!



There were workshops about the history of the town, too. There was a blacksmith there, and I learned all about how people in our town made tools over 200 years ago. It was amazing to watch him make tools like pickaxes right in front of our eyes! There was also a weaver at the fair who taught me all about how rugs and fabric were made hundreds of years ago. I loved learning about the history of our town, and about some of the craft skills from long ago. I gotta say, I learned so much that I wish the fair went on longer, so I could have learned even more!

News Anchor: Thanks for sharing, Sarah. It sounds like this year's fair was quite a success. I think we're all looking forward to the next one. Thanks for watching.

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Opinion | Town Fair

Source 2

Name: _____

Date: _____

V.I.P.

Fun at the Fair!

By Andrew Lee

Contests

This year, the fair held the annual largest vegetable contest, where local farmers brought in their prized vegetables. The winner of the largest pumpkin contest grew a pumpkin that weighed a whopping 2,471 pounds! That's almost as heavy as a car. It was a close contest this year, however, because the runner-up pumpkin only weighed 4 pounds less. It was a fantastic sight to see all the huge pumpkins that were grown this year.

If gardening isn't your thing, there were still contests that you could participate in at the fair. For a more humorous contest, attendees could compete in a rubber chicken throwing contest. Anyone could sign up to throw a rubber chicken as far as possible. No machines or devices to help are allowed in this contest; it's simply how far you can throw it with your arm strength. The winner of this year's contest threw a rubber chicken 57 feet, causing huge cheers and whoops from the crowd. It will definitely be tough to beat that record!



A competition pumpkin

Art

The artists alley is a street at the town fair dedicated to showcasing local artists and their work. This year's fair featured outstanding art of all different kinds. There were painters, sculptors, pottery artists, and more. Kyla Berchum is a local artist who creates amazing work out of glass. At the fair she featured household glass items, such as plates and vases, as well as beautiful stained glass windows. Attendees at the fair could admire her work, or purchase her art for their homes.



Stained glass window

For those who wanted to participate in making art at the fair this year, the fair held a butter sculpting event. People could sign up to make a sculpture completely out of a huge chunk of butter! Making a butter sculpture requires time, patience, and a whole lot of butter. The butter artists work in a refrigerated room so the butter stays solid and is easier to carve. Attendees can see the sculptures in progress as well as admire them when they are complete! While these sculptures are amazing, they don't tend to last. When the butter melts, the sculpture is gone!



An artist making a sculpture out of butter.

Notes

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Opinion | Town Fair

Name: _____

Date: _____

VI.P.

Thesis

★ Reason 1

Reason 2

Reason 3

Outline

Name: _____

V.I.P.

Date: _____

Introduction

Hook:

Thesis:

Preview:

Reason 1

Reason 2

Outline Cont.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Reason 3

Conclusion

Thesis:

Reasons:

Call to action:

Transition phrases

One reason...
For example...
Specifically...
This shows...
As you can see...
Another reason...
Furthermore...

Convincing Words

I am sure...
Clearly...
Certainly...
Everybody knows...
Without a doubt...
Undoubtedly...
...guaranteed.

TOWN FAIR!

Type Here...

Name

Type Here...

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Opinion | Town Fair

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Writing Checklist

Name: _____

Date: _____

V.I.P.

Introduction

- Hook
- Thesis
- Preview of what the body paragraphs are about

Body Paragraph 1

- Reason 1
- 2 or more pieces of evidence
- Explanation of evidence
- Connection to thesis
- 2 or more transition phrases

Body Paragraph 2

- Reason 2
- 2 or more pieces of evidence
- Explanation of evidence
- Connection to thesis
- 2 or more transition phrases

Body Paragraph 3

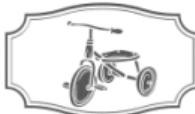
- Reason 3
- 2 or more pieces of evidence
- Explanation of evidence
- Connection to thesis
- 2 or more transition phrases

Conclusion

- Summary of the thesis and three reasons
- Call to action or suggestion for the reader

Mystery

Opinion | Town Fair



Revision Ideas

Word choice – revise words by making them more interesting, exciting, or specific.

Original: The fair will be fun.

Revised: The fair will be thrilling.

Add descriptions – help readers picture what you are writing about.

Original: You can ride tricycles down a hill.

Revised: You can race down the hill at high speeds on a tiny, plastic tricycle.

Figurative language – add comparisons (simile or metaphor), personification, or onomatopoeia.

Original: People can grow big pumpkins.

Revised: People can grow pumpkins the size of a small car.

Sentence variation – combine or split apart sentences so your writing has a combination of short and long sentences.

Original: There is a lot of art to see. Some artists make stained glass. Other artists make sculptures out of butter.

Revised: There is a lot of art to see, such as stained glass and even sculptures made out of butter.

TOWN FAIR!

Name

Date



Handwriting practice lines for a town fair report.

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Opinion | Town Fair



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Opinion | Town Fair

Source 1

Name: _____

Date: _____

An Interview with Marnie Stevenson

We sat down with Marnie Stevenson, the director of the science museum. She answered our questions about the value of science museums like this one.

Why do you think science museums are important?

Marnie: What most people don't realize is that science is all around us. Science is our understanding of how the world works, and the world is all around us! On a regular day, you're probably not thinking about the mechanics of how a car works, or why the lights turn on when you flip the switch, or how plants grow. These things just sort of ... happen. But at a science museum you really get a chance to look at these things closely and understand why things happen. You can create electricity by pedaling a bicycle that is attached to an electric generator. If you pedal hard, you can make a light turn on. Pedal even harder and you can turn on a blow dryer, and if you pedal extra hard, you may get the electric heater to turn on. It really helps you understand just how much energy is required to run these everyday things. Science museums can help people understand the world around them better and understand how everyday things work.

How do science museums help people learn about science?

Marnie: Well, we know that learning can happen in a lot of different ways. But we also know that when people learn through an experience, they are a lot more likely to remember what they learned. Plus, it's way more fun. Think of it like this: you can read about how a T. rex grew to be about 40 feet long, and maybe there's a picture of it, too. And you think, "sure, that seems pretty big." But then when you're standing in the entrance hall with the enormous T. rex skeleton looming over you, you can *really* appreciate just how enormous these amazing creatures were. Or if you think about something else, like bridges. At the museum we have different building materials so people can experiment with designing bridges in different ways and find out how much weight each type of bridge can hold. By actually building and experimenting, people can learn and understand more deeply why the bridges in our cities are built the way that they are.

What would you say to someone who is thinking about visiting the museum?

Marnie: I would say be ready to play and have fun, but also come with an open mind. You will probably find things in the museum that you're already interested in or know a lot about. But you might also find something completely new and discover a new interest! Maybe you'll discover you're really interested in 3D printing, or in spaceships, or mushrooms, or something else! When people are interested in a subject, they are much more likely to explore and learn more about it. When you leave the museum, you can continue to explore and learn about that new interest you discovered. Learning at the science museum can continue after your visit, turning visitors into lifelong learners. Plus, learning in an environment like this makes memories that can last a lifetime.

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Opinion | Town Fair

Source 2

Name: _____

Date: _____

Science Museum Flyer

Earth Through Time

In this exhibit, visitors can walk back in time through the ancient eras of Earth. Viewing models, pictures, and diagrams, visitors can walk back in time on our planet. You can view the first humans to walk the earth, explore extinct animals such as dinosaurs, and go all the way back in time to when the first signs of life appeared on our planet. This walk-through exhibit allows visitors to see the long history of our planet, and appreciate how some animals, such as horseshoe crabs and sharks, have been living here for over 450 million years!

Planetarium

Our planetarium is an amazing movie theater space where people can see the planets of our solar system up close. The comfortable reclining seats allow you to look up at the ceiling, where an amazing space show is projected. You can experience the stars, planets, and moons in orbit as the planetary show guides you through our solar system and beyond. The show begins with beautiful satellite imagery of Earth and the moon. Then, using computer-generated imagery, we take a tour into deep space. In this show you can learn about astronomy while also experiencing a high-tech projection show.

Robotics Lab

Join us at the robotics lab to learn about both simple and complex machines. You can experiment with building electronic robots with small motors, wheels, and other parts. You can also build mechanical robots that use simple machines, such as rubber bands, pulleys, and ramps to allow the robot to move. Twice a day we hold robot races. You can enter your robot in a race against the other creations. Prizes are given for the fastest robot, the smoothest driving robot, and the silliest robot.

Human Brain

In our human brain exhibit, you can learn about recent science on how your brain works and participate in challenges to trick your brain! There are optical illusions that may trick you into seeing things that aren't really there. You can take our memory challenge to see how many words you can memorize in under a minute, or you can participate in brain teaser games with your friends.

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Opinion | Town Fair

Science Museum Plan

Name: _____

Date:

Imagine your principal is considering sending your class on a field trip to the science museum. Write a persuasive letter to the principal convincing them to send your class on the field trip.

Directions:

- Read Sources 1 and 2 to learn about the science museum.
- Take notes on both sources.
- Organize your notes into an outline for how your persuasive letter will go.

Science Museum Draft

Name: _____

Date: _____

Directions: Write a persuasive letter to the principal convincing them to send your class on the field trip.

In your writing, remember to:

- Write an introduction
- Include three body paragraphs
- Add evidence
- Write a conclusion
- Revise and edit your writing

Science Museum Draft

Name: _____

Date: _____

If you need more space, continue on a piece of lined paper.

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5th Grade Opinion Writing Rubric

Town Fair

Name: _____

Date: _____

Standard	1	2	3	4	Feedback
W.5.5, W.5.8 Take notes from sources to determine key ideas.					
W.5.4 Create and write a thesis and reasons.					
W.5.5 Create an outline to organize notes.					
W.5.1.a Write an introduction. Include the thesis.					
W.5.1.b Write body paragraphs that include a reason and are supported with facts, details, and/or quotes.					
W.5.1.d Write a conclusion that summarizes the thesis and reasons and makes a call to action.					
W.5.4, W.5.5 Make necessary changes that makes writing more convincing to the reader. Check and fix capitalization, spelling, and punctuation.					

1 = standard not met; 2 = standard partially met; 3 = standard met; 4 = exceeds expectations

My Opinion Writing Checklist

Town Fair

Name: _____

Date: _____

Writing Process	Learning Goals	Not yet	Starting to...	Yes!
Find information	I can use two sources of information and take notes in my own words.			
Make a plan	I can use my information to create an outline and organize my writing.			
Write a beginning	I can write an introduction for my persuasive letter.			
Write body paragraphs	I can write body paragraphs that have a reason and evidence.			
Write an ending	I can write an ending that summarizes my writing.			
Make changes	I can choose words and phrases to make my writing more convincing.			
Read and check again	I can whisper read my writing and fix any confusing parts.			
Fix capitals, spelling, and end marks	I can edit my writing by checking for errors in capitalization, spelling, and punctuation (end marks.)			