

Bog Blog (Optional): Bugs on the Bog Response to Other Growers

Notes to the Teacher

This Bog Blog assignment relates to the lesson **Bugs on the Bog**. It is an optional follow-up to the initial Bugs on the Bog blog assignment, which must be completed prior to this assignment. (The first assignment entails students responding to other blogs posed in the prompt, *What's Your Pest Management Strategy?*)

This particular blog prompt gives students the chance to see and read other students' writing—giving them important practice reading for information—and also to gain feedback about their own writing, in a realistic context. Because students are writing in response to each others' pieces, it also creates an opportunity to encourage written discourse and critical thinking within the class.

However, the assignment itself is kept rather open, leaving you lots of opportunity to focus student attention on the parts of writing and reading that you are most concerned with in your classroom at the current time.

Goals for this writing assignment include:

- gathering and analyzing information (from a written source)
- using information to answer a question.

(In Massachusetts, these writing goals address Learning Standard # 24 in the English Language Arts Curriculum Frameworks.)

While responding to other students' blogs is the crux of this assignment, you may need to consider additional details required of each student's response. The types of responses might include identifying new and interesting arguments; requesting clarification; acknowledging a point of view that's different.

You will need to choose a structure that will enable your students to approach the assignment productively. For example, you might allow students to browse the entire collection for something to respond to, or you might assign a small subset of entries for students to read. In any event, if you wish to pursue this option, a response blog form is provided for students on their Student Home Page.

Note that the student bog blogs are interactive Word forms. There are limits to the numbers of characters allowed in each answer: 40 characters for student names and the names of students whose

blogs they are responding to, and 1200 characters (about half a page) for the development of student responses.

Bog Blog Prompt (provided to students via the Student Home Page)

As a cranberry grower, you are interested in what other growers have decided to do to manage their insect pests. As you read through the information provided by other growers in the Growers Association research, you realize how important it is for growers to continue to support each other by discussing their practices. Respond to one grower's blog post with one of your own.

Keep in mind the purposes of your writing. You want to encourage people to share ideas, even while responding with your own. It's okay to disagree with or question what others have to say, but it's also important to do it in a way that supports the group.

As you write, remember to note which blog post you are responding to, and give clear reasons for your questions and comments.