

Bog Blog: Cranberry Connections

Notes to the Teacher

This Bog Blog assignment relates to the *Exploring Cranberries* lesson, **Cranberry Connections**. While any writing assignment can meet almost any of your language arts goals, this Bog Blog is intended to give your students practice in:

- Writing with a clear focus
- Coherent organization
- Sufficient detail

If you teach in Massachusetts, you may recognize that these goals address the MA Curriculum Framework in English Language Arts, Standard #19.

The content of this writing piece is intended to build on the sense of interconnectedness between cranberries and the interdependent network of people, places, events, and objects in which bogs function. It is framed in a creative context in an effort to surprise and engage students.

After the main blog assignment is presented, an optional second part is provided. It is designed to provide an opportunity for students to hear from one of their readers. If your school informational technology system enables emailing or instant messaging while in class, you may wish to have reader/responders email or message the bloggers. In addition, you might opt to have the bloggers edit their work based on the feedback they receive. If so, hearing from at least two people would be ideal.

Note that the students will access this bog blog via a link from the Student Home Page. Clicking on the link will open an interactive Word form. The student responses are limited to 40 characters for their names and 1200 characters (about half a page) for their responses. Each student should save his or her blog with a unique name to a file folder you designate.

For your reference, the text of the student prompt appears on the following page.

Bog Blog Prompt

You have just opened a magical can of cranberry sauce. Out pop 3 cranberries. Each transforms into a person, place, or thing. All are connected to each other through the cranberry. What do you see, and how are they connected?

As you write this piece, keep in mind it is for a blog. Other people will read it. They will want to understand what you have to say. Here are some helpful pointers:

- Make sure you answer the question. Stay focused on it.
- Organize what you have to say so that people can follow your ideas.
- Explain your thinking and how your ideas connect. You want readers to understand the connections you make among the three examples you choose.
- Remember to try to make your writing interesting. What colors and details can you add? Can you replace words like “is,” “was,” and “thing” with other words?

Part II (Optional)

Read one person’s bog blog. What is something that you like about his or her blog? What is one part you don’t understand? Write that person a note to share your responses.