

Bog Blog: Which Bog?

Notes to the Teacher

This Bog Blog assignment relates to the *Exploring Cranberries* lesson **Adopt a Bog**. This Bog Blog assignment is intended as an opportunity for you to address language arts goals, especially

- writing with a clear focus, with coherent organization and sufficient detail
- organizing ideas in writing in a way that make sense for their purposes
- gathering information from a variety of sources, analyzing and evaluating the quality of the information they obtain, and using it to answer their own questions.

In Massachusetts, these writing goals meet Learning Standards #19, 23, and 24 in the English Language Arts Curriculum Frameworks. Because of the way in which this blog assignment is structured, it also provides students with practice in persuasive writing and developing an argument.

The content of this writing piece is intended to focus students on the salient features of a bog and why specific ones would make for a desirable site, whereas others might be problematic. They have just engaged in a lesson with many different bits of information that they need for an analysis. Writing can serve as an opportunity for them to pull together their knowledge and check their thinking before moving on to new ideas.

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

Now that you have identified the bog you wish to adopt, it is time to purchase it. You have an investor lined up. An investor is someone who will help you pay for the bog. The investor provides some of the money you need to buy the bog. Later, when you are able to earn money by growing cranberries, you will pay some of your earnings to the investor. Before your investor agrees to help you purchase the bog, you must convince him or her that this bog is a good investment, preferable to the others. Write about why your choice is a good one. Be sure to compare and contrast the features of your selected bog with the features of the others.

- What are the strengths of the bog you chose?
- What are the downsides?
- What about this bog makes it okay that there are these downsides?

As you write this piece, keep in mind it is a formal argument. 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 a reader 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?