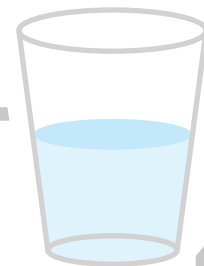


Name: _____

Date: _____

Opinion Writing Learning Check



Directions: Read the two texts and respond to the prompt that follows.

Text 1

Do you drink enough water each day? Our bodies need water to survive. Our bodies are mostly made up of water. We need to replenish, or replace, water each day. The human body uses water in many ways.

Water keeps the body's temperature normal. It helps move waste through the body. It helps keep our joints, like our elbows, knees, and shoulders, moving smoothly. Every cell in our body needs water so it can keep working properly.

We are hydrated when we drink enough water. If we don't drink enough water, our bodies become dehydrated. When this happens, our bodies stop working properly.

Water helps our bodies in other ways, too. It helps with headaches, and it helps us feel more energized. Also, it helps us to not overeat. Sometimes we think that we are hungry, but we are really just thirsty. When we drink enough water, it helps us to maintain, or keep, a healthy weight. Water is also helpful with bad breath and bad moods.

There are many important benefits of water. Our bodies need clean water to survive, so it is our job to drink enough each day.

Text 2

Contaminated water is unclean water. It is not safe to drink. It has toxins, or dangerous poison, in it. Did you know that there is water all over the world that is contaminated? People drink this poisonous water because they do not know that it is contaminated.

In 2014, the town of Flint, Michigan, changed their water source. They used to get water from Lake Huron. It was changed to the Flint River in 2014. They did this to save money.

However, people in Flint said that the water smelled and tasted funny. They also said it looked funny. The city investigated and realized that the water was not completely clean. They tried to fix it by adding chlorine to the water. They also flushed the pipes. At times, they told the residents, or people living there, to boil the water before drinking it. After that, they said it was safe to drink.

This continued into 2015. The city investigated and warned the people that the water might have some problems. There were toxins in the water that cause cancer. Children began getting sick with rashes and strange illnesses. Parents and other residents were concerned and tried to talk to the government about the problem.

Researchers found that the water had lead in it. Lead is found in pipes and other fixtures in older homes. Lead is a toxic metal that is harmful to health. It is especially harmful to children. Humans should not have any exposure to lead at all.

It took over a year for the government to take this water problem seriously. In 2016, the National Guard brought bottled water to the people of Flint. It was too unsafe for them to drink water out of the faucet.

Many of the people from Flint, Michigan, are dealing with illnesses from the bad drinking water in their city. They are asking the government to help them.

Safe, clean drinking water is important for human beings. Our bodies need water to survive and to be healthy. Water keeps every part of our bodies working properly, and it must be safe water with no toxins.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Opinion Writing Learning Check



Prompt:

Clean drinking water is essential for the survival of humans. Write a letter to the mayor of your town to convince him to make sure your town's water is safe. Use examples from the passages in your explanation.

Your writing will be scored based on the development of ideas, organization of writing, and language conventions of grammar, word choice, and mechanics.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Writing Rubric - 3rd Grade

	4	3	2	1
Development and Organization	<p>The writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fully addresses the prompt • is at least a paragraph that includes a clear introduction • includes strong supporting details or evidence from the passage that is on-topic • includes a clear conclusion 	<p>The writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mostly addresses the prompt • is a paragraph that includes an introduction • includes adequate supporting details or evidence from the passage that is on-topic • includes a conclusion 	<p>The writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • somewhat addresses the prompt • is a paragraph that includes an introduction • includes some supporting details or evidence from the passage that is on-topic • includes a conclusion 	<p>The writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not address the prompt • is a paragraph that does not include an introduction • lacks supporting details or evidence from the passage • lacks a conclusion
Language Conventions	<p>The writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrates strong usage of grade-level conventions • uses a variety of linking words and phrases • contains few, if any, grammatical errors • contains few, if any, spelling errors • contains few, if any, capitalization errors • contains few, if any, punctuation errors • is clear and easy to understand 	<p>The writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrates good usage of grade-level conventions • uses linking words and phrases • contains few grammatical errors • contains few spelling errors • contains few capitalization errors • contains few punctuation errors • is able to be understood 	<p>The writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrates below-average usage of grade-level conventions • uses basic linking words and phrases • contains many grammatical errors • contains many spelling errors • contains many capitalization errors • contains many punctuation errors • is difficult to understand 	<p>The writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrates poor usage of grade-level conventions • uses few, if any, linking words and phrases • contains numerous grammatical errors • contains numerous spelling errors • contains numerous capitalization errors • contains numerous punctuation errors • is almost impossible to understand