

Unit 2: Animals Surviving and Thriving

WEEK 5 Day 1

**Writing Argument**  
Pre-Assessment

<b>Content Objective</b>	I can write a letter convincing my teacher to get a class pet. (W.3.1.b)
<b>Materials and Preparation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Argument Pre-Assessment sheet, 1 copy for each child, plus a few extra copies</li><li>● drawing and writing tools</li><li>● Argument Rubric, one copy for each child</li><li>● Argument Pre-Assessment Reflection</li></ul>
<b>Opening</b> 5 minutes	<p><i>We have been working together a lot on writing this year. Today I am going to ask you to write something all by yourselves, without help, like we did in Unit 1. This gives me a better idea of what you already know and helps me plan for our new Writing unit.</i></p> <p>Show the Argument Pre-Assessment sheet.</p> <p><i>Each of you will get a sheet that looks like this. At the top there is a place to write your name and the date. Then it says “Write a letter convincing your teacher to get a class pet.”</i></p> <p>Note: If a child has a strong feeling about <b>not</b> having a class pet (because of an allergy or for another reason), he can write a letter making that argument instead. If there is already a class pet, the children could argue to get rid of it or to get another pet.</p> <p><i>Let me read that again: “Write a letter convincing your teacher to get a class pet.”</i></p> <p><i>Take some time to think about what you will write. When you are ready, give me a silent thumbs up, and I will give you paper to begin your work.</i></p>
<b>Individual Construction</b> 24 minutes	Send the children with writing tools and Pre-Assessment sheets.

<b>Closing</b> 1 minute	<i>It's so helpful for me to read your writing and to see what you already know! Tomorrow we will begin learning about a new genre of writing.</i>
<b>Standards</b>	<b>W.3.1.b</b> Use a combination of drawing and writing to communicate a topic with details.
<b>Ongoing assessment</b>	Use the Argument Rubric to score each child's work. Then, complete the Argument Pre-Assessment Reflection to plan for next steps.

**Notes**