

Book of the Year

Supporting an Opinion with Well Explained Reasons

Project Summary: Awards and prizes for excellence are a familiar part of our lives. Every year we read in the newspaper and see on television the winners of awards such as Pulitzer Prizes, Academy Awards, Nobel Prizes, and Newberry Book Awards. Experts nominate the candidates and select the prize winners for these and other awards. In this project, you are going to be the expert and select an award winner. After reading numerous books this year, both new and old, you and your classmates are going to select the very best—the Book of the Year. Each member of the class will be nominating a book for this prestigious award and eventually voting on the winner. The first step of the selection process is for you to write a letter to the award committee (your classmates) nominating a book for this award. You want to persuade them to vote for your book. To be persuasive, your letter should give your reasons for nominating the book and include specific details from the story to support your opinions. After all of your letters are read, you and your classmates will vote for the award-winning book.

Purpose: Obviously, your goal is to make your letter persuasive. You want your classmates to vote for your book.

Writer’s Role: You are writing as yourself, an expert on the topic. You have read many books this year, and you are nominating one of them for Book of the Year.

Audience: Your letter will be to the Award Committee (your classmates), who will be voting for the book of the year.

Form: Your letter of nomination will be a friendly letter. Start your letter:
Dear Award Committee, (fifth line of your paper).

- Focus Correction Areas:**
1. Clear Introduction (name the book and the author; include a brief comment about the book)
 2. Three or More Reasons with Details (support each reason with specific examples from the book)
 3. (To be determined)

Procedures: Before you write your letter, you will do several things in class:

- Type One Writing: Write six lines or more about two books you have read this year and why you liked these books.
- On the board we will list different books your classmates mention. Then we will discuss briefly some details from some of those books.
- Type One Writing: Now that we have talked about some of the books you have read this year, write six lines or more about one book that you think is the very best and tell some of your reasons why.
- We will discuss and make a list on the board of some of the most common reasons why books are favorites. The list will include reasons such as these:

Interesting

Funny

Exciting

Surprising

- Type Two Writing: Choose one of the reasons you gave for liking your book and give a specific example to support your reason.
- We will discuss examples of this writing so that we all get a good idea of how to use specific details from a book.
- Do a Focus Sheet for Getting Details From a Book. This step will help you gather specific details that support your opinion before you write your letter of nomination.
- Draft your letter.
- Read your letter to yourself in a one-foot voice, and make any changes you feel will improve it.
- Work with a partner, and get feedback on your letter; double-check your FCAs to make sure you have done a good job in those areas.
- Write a second draft with all of your improvements.

Getting Details from a Book

Book Title _____

Author _____

Reasons I liked the book

Details and examples from the book

(use details like who, what, when where, and why)








