

Unit 1

Design a Carousel

(opinion)

Part 1: Standards Addressed in This Activity

- W.5.1 Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.
- W.5.1.A Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which ideas are logically grouped to support the writer’s purpose.
- W.5.1.B Provide logically ordered reasons that are supported by facts and details.
- W.5.1.C Link opinion and reasons using words, phrases, and clauses (e.g., *consequently*, *specifically*).
- W.5.1.D Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.
- W.5.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- W.5.5 With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
- W.5.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
- W.5.10 Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Part 2: Description of Activity

The student will write an opinion essay, describing a carousel and its menagerie for a specific institution such as a zoo, an art museum, a water park, an airport, a transportation museum, or a specific place or city of the student’s choosing. He or she will support the opinion with facts and examples. When possible, the student will compare his or her carousel with one or more of the carousels described in Unit 1.

Part 3: Teacher and Student Instructions

Task A: Pre-writing

1. Show students some slides or videos of various carousels all over the world. Examples of these are given in the Resources section.
2. Help students brainstorm a list of locations where a carousel could be an attraction. Next to each one, they should give facts about the place. Use **Prewriting Planner #1: Brainstorming Carousel Rides**.
3. Tell students they will begin to design a carousel using their imaginations and facts they've gathered about a place where a carousel could be housed and operated. Brainstorm elements of the ride, including types of objects, animals, or vehicles suitable to the site where the carousel will be located. Many different kinds of items can serve as "seats" on a carousel. Use **Prewriting Planner #2: Brainstorming Carousel Rides**. (Students may need access to outside resources, such as the internet, books about geography, historical sites, national parks, and other locations.)

Directions for the Student

Think about where you would install a carousel, and what objects, animals, or vehicles would be most appropriate to use as mounts for the ride.

For example, one of our country's first aquariums, the New York Aquarium, was located on the grounds of Manhattan's Battery Park. That's where the idea for the Seaglass Carousel, featuring enormous beautiful fish, came from.

Things to Think About:

- What is the purpose of the institution or place where your carousel will be located?
- What objects would best reflect that purpose?
- What kind of music would be most appropriate for your carousel ride?
- What kind of lighting, colors, and materials would you use?

You do not need to worry about funding, so be as creative as possible!

Task B: Write an Opinion

Prompt

Design a carousel for a specific site and choose a name for it. Explain how your carousel reflects its location. Include plenty of details about the ride’s elements, including sound, color, lighting, and movement. Use sensory words to describe the riding experience. Link your opinions and reasons with words and phrases, such as *for instance*, *for example*, and *in addition*.

Part 4: Handouts/Suggested Responses

Transition Words list

Prewriting Planner #1: Brainstorming Carousel Rides (Sample)

Prewriting Planner #1: Brainstorming Carousel Rides (Blank)

Prewriting Planner #2: Brainstorming Carousel Rides (Sample)

Prewriting Planner #2: Brainstorming Carousel Rides (Blank)

Prompt

Part 5: Resources

[Brookfield Zoo Carousel](#), Brookfield, IL

[The 1902 Herschell-Spillman Carousel](#), Ocean City, MD

[The 2011 Carousel Works Carousel](#), Columbus, OH

[Detroit Zoo Carousel](#), Detroit, MI

[The 2010 Carousel Works Carousel](#), New York, NY

[The 1993 Carousel Concept Carousel](#), Kellogg, MN

[Seaglass Carousel](#), New York City, NY

Many more at National Carousel Association’s [North American Photo Shows](#) and [American Carousels by State](#)

Transition Words

Transitions are words, phrases, and clauses that connect ideas within and among sentences. Transitions make paragraphs flow more smoothly within an essay.

If you want to...	Then, use one of these:
introduce more information	also, and, besides, even more, further, furthermore, in addition, in fact, moreover, nor, or, too
show a cause-effect relationship	as, because, because of, consequently, due to, for that reason, hence, on account of, since, so, therefore, thus
bring in an example	a case in point, as an illustration, for example, for instance, in particular, specifically, to demonstrate, to illustrate
show a location	above, across, adjacent to, against, along, among, around, behind, below, beneath, beside, between, by, down, in back of, in front of, inside, into, near, nearby, neighboring, off, on top of, opposite, outside, over, throughout, to the right, under
indicate time sequence	after, as soon as, before, currently, during, eventually, finally, first (second, third, fourth, etc.), formerly, immediately, initially, lastly, later, meanwhile, next, previously, simultaneously, soon, subsequently, today, tomorrow, yesterday
compare	also, although, but, despite, however, in comparison to, in contrast, instead, like, likewise, nevertheless, on the other hand, otherwise, similarly, unlike, whereas, yet
clarify	in other words, that is to say, to clarify, to explain, to put it another way, to rephrase
qualify	almost, although, always, frequently, maybe, nearly, never, on occasion, perhaps, probably, sometimes
bring to an end	as a result, as I have said, as mentioned earlier, as we have seen, in any event, in conclusion, in other words, in summary, on the whole, therefore, to recap, to summarize, to sum up

Name: Sample**Pre-writing Planner #1: Brainstorming Carousel Rides**

Carousel Location	Description
Science Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rockets, planets, moons, solar system, hot air balloons, balance (scale), beakers, submarines, windmill, weather vane • dry ice (CO₂), riders wear lab coats • techno music
Grand Canyon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mules, bikes, kayaks • canyon mural on surrounding walls, panning for gold • old fashioned music (from the 1800s), donkeys braying
Water Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inner tubes, boats, rafts, waves, surfboards, logs, submarine, dolphin and/or whale, starfish, lobster, octopus, etc. • water splashing, riders wear life jackets, riders shoot water pistols at targets or throw water balloons, bubble machine • splashing sounds, ocean noise, birds, whales, etc.

Name: _____

Pre-writing Planner #1: Brainstorming Carousel Rides

Carousel Location	Description

Name: Sample**Pre-writing Planner #2: Brainstorming Carousel Rides**

Carousel Location	Description
<p style="text-align: center;">Cleveland East 9th Street Pier & Waterfront</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • area already has many attractions: Rock and Roll Hall of Fame & Museum, U.S.S. Cod Submarine Memorial, Great Lakes Science Center, Steamship William G. Mather, FirstEnergy Stadium, Lake Erie • E 9th Street Pier as a destination has lots of foot traffic, plus all the additional traffic of people going to the above attractions • an open-air carousel for children; if the seats could incorporate all the other attractions it would be a big hit • because Cleveland weather can be brutal, enclosing the carousel in glass would make it a year-round attraction • plans are underway to further develop the waterfront with restaurants, so now would be the time
<p style="text-align: center;">Las Vegas Cowabunga Bay Water Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Las Vegas is filled with nighttime attractions for kids (volcanoes, dancing water fountains, magicians, acrobat shows) • there is very little for kids to do during the day, however, so many families head to the water park • while it is usually hot and dry (perfect weather for a waterpark), sometimes you just want to get out of the water (a land activity, i.e., a carousel, could be a hit)

Name: _____

Pre-writing Planner #2: Brainstorming Carousel Rides

Carousel Location	Description

