

Title: Opinion Writing: Is it better to plant perennial plants or annual plants?	Grade: 4th Grade
Content: Science Themed Opinion Writing	Duration: 10-20 minutes daily

Standard:

- **W.4.1:** Write opinion pieces on topics, supporting your opinion with reasons and information.

Objective: Students will read a nonfiction article; decide if it's better to plant perennial plants or annual plants; write an opinion piece using the OREO strategy.

Materials:

- Article- "Some Plants Come Back Year After Year"
 - Paper copy below
 - <https://newsela.com/read/elem-spring-flowers/id/42589/>
 - OREO graphic organizer (below)
- Blank paper
- Pencil
- Highlighter, colored pencils or pen, crayons (optional)

Introduction Description:

Students will read about perennial and annual plants and write an opinion piece about which type is better.

Steps:

- **Day 1:** Read the article "Some Plants Come Back Year After Year".
 - Read aloud with someone else.
 - Read/listen to someone else read aloud.
 - Read to self.
- **Day 2:** Reread the article.
 - Find information about perennial plants and circle it.
 - Find information about annual plants and underline it.
- **Day 3:** Start writing your opinion piece.
 - What is your opinion?
 - It's better to plant perennial plants.
 - It's better to plant annual plants.
 - Use the OREO graphic organizer to organize your ideas (you may draw your own OREO graphic organizer).
 - Opinion.
 - Reason and explanation.
 - Reason and explanation.
 - Opinion
- **Day 4:** Finish your OREO organizer (if needed) and start writing your opinion piece.
 - Remember to:
 - Indent paragraphs.
 - Use capital letters correctly.
 - Use punctuation at the end of each sentence.
- **Day 5:** Finish your writing and read it aloud to someone.
 - Look over your writing and make any changes.
 - Check spelling and grammar.
 - Check capital letters.
 - Check punctuation.

Adaptations (optional):

- Read article aloud with another person.
- Read/listen to article as someone else reads aloud.
- Draw your own illustration for the article.
- Record a video of you reading your opinion aloud.
- Draw your own OREO graphic organizer.
- Type your opinion piece on the computer.

Finished Product: Students will read nonfiction articles; use OREO strategy to write their own opinion piece.

Some plants come back year after year

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 05.15.18

Word Count **510**

Level **350L**



Image 1. Sunflowers are in a category of plants called annuals, which sprout, shoot up, flower and die in one year. Photo by: Washington Post/ Michael S. Williamson

"April showers bring May flowers." Have you ever heard this saying? Now that April is over, those May flowers are starting to appear. You may recognize a few from last spring.

Many plants live and die within one year. Gardeners replant them each spring. But other plants stick around. They remain year after year. These plants can bloom again on their own. People do not have to replant them.

These plants do need some help though. They need light from the sun. They need water from the rain. They also need air. All plants need these things.

Just One Year Or Many

Many flowers are called annuals. Their lives last just one year. They start out as seeds. Then they grow up, make flowers and die. The whole process takes a year. Sunflowers and petunias are examples of annuals.

Then there are perennials (per-EN-ee-als). These plants are different from annuals. Perennial plants can survive for years.

James Boyer is a scientist. He works at the New York Botanical Garden. You can see many beautiful flowers there.

New Plants Replace Old Ones

Annuals make a bunch of seeds, he says. They use everything they have to do it. They put all of their energy into it. The plants take a chance. If they are lucky, the seeds will grow new plants. The annuals will die. But the new plants will replace them.

Perennials are different. They do not make a bunch of seeds all at once. Instead, they hold onto them. They save their energy. The plants use most of their energy to keep themselves alive.

Perennials can repair themselves, too. They can grow new stems and leaves. Many will make flowers. But they sometimes wait years to do it. In most cases, the plants will save some energy. That way, they have enough for the next season. Then they can flower again.

To get this energy, they need sunlight. The seeds also need enough water in the winter and springtime. Without water and sunlight, the seeds will not grow. They will stay below the surface.



Tricking Plants


Some scientists wish annuals were more like perennials. They are trying to trick annuals into living longer. But there is only one way to do this. It involves the plants' DNA.

DNA is the basic building block of life. It tells a plant how to grow and work. Scientists are studying the DNA of annuals. They hope to change the DNA. Then the plants might live longer.

Why are scientists trying this? In time, it could help grow more food. For example, corn is an annual. It dies each year. Then farmers have to plant it again. They would not need to replant it if corn were a perennial.

That would be a big help, James says. It could change how we grow food.

Is it better to plant perennial plants or annual plants?

Opinion	
Reason and evidence	
Reason and evidence	
Opinion	



O pinion	Students should wear uniforms to school.
Reason and evidence	Saves money Buy fewer clothes Wal Mart and Dollar General
Reason and evidence	Kids will be kinder Won't be mean about clothes
O pinion	School uniforms are a good idea save money kindness

Sample written with a different topic:

Students Should Wear School Uniforms

Students should wear uniforms to school. It would help make school better in several ways.

First, wearing uniforms to school would save families money. WalMart and Dollar General can order them and they are not as expensive as buying lots of shorts, jeans, and shirts.

If students all wear uniforms people will be kinder to each other. Wearing uniforms will cut down on kids making fun of other kids because of the clothes they wear.

Wearing school uniforms is a good idea since it will save families money on buying clothes and students will not be unkind to each other because of the clothes they wear to school.