

Title: Opinion Writing: Should Schools Have Snow Days?	Grade: 3rd Grade
Content: Science Themed Opinion Writing	Duration: 10-20 minutes daily

Standard:

- **RI.3.13:** Read and comprehend grade 3 text.
- **W.3.1:** Write opinion pieces with point of view and reasons.

Objective: Students will read a nonfiction article and share their opinion about if schools should have snow days. They will write an opinion piece using the OREO strategy.

Materials:

- Article- “School Districts Decide When it is Too Cold for Class”
 - Paper copy below
 - https://newsela-media.s3.amazonaws.com/pdfs/too-cold-for-school-39346-article_only.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAIOXSRXVQ3RGAX2FA&Signature=%2BLO6Sq7I2TNDQABLgfBkWwyvxCU%3D&Expires=1585239402
- OREO graphic organizer (below)
- Blank paper
- Pencil
- Highlighter, colored pencils or pen, crayons (optional)

Steps:

- Day 1: Read the article “School Districts Decide When it is Too Cold for Class”
 - Read aloud with someone else
 - Read/listen to someone else read aloud
 - Read to self
- Day 2: Reread the article.
 - Find reasons that school districts close schools.
 - Circle or highlight as many reasons as you can find
- Day 3: Start writing your opinion piece.
 - 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.
 - 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 and use OREO strategy to write their own opinion piece.

School districts decide when it is too cold for class

By Valerie Strauss, Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 01.09.18

Word Count 410

Level 580L



A woman walks her dog in front of a public school on January 4, 2018, in Brooklyn, New York, as New York Public Schools were closed due to snow. Photo by Angela Weiss/AFP/Getty

Parts of the United States get very cold in winter. How do schools decide when it is too cold for class?

There are not many rules for these decisions. School leaders get to decide. They think about temperature, roads and wind. Temperatures have gone way below zero degrees in some places.

The wind can also make people feel even colder. This is called the wind chill.

It has been very cold in states like New York and Maryland. Schools there have been closing. They want to keep kids safe from the cold.

Keith Marty leads the Parkway School District in Missouri. He put a letter on the school website. It said parents have asked how they decide when to close a school. He wants to have school but also wants to keep children safe, he said.

Some States Are Used To Very Cold Weather

Children in states like Minnesota are used to very cold weather. Kids in states like Florida are not.

There are also worries about health dangers of the cold. It is hard for people to be outdoors. Some old school buildings may not have good heating. Leaders also think about how long students have to wait outdoors for a bus.

Some students get most of their meals at school. Leaders worry that they will go hungry without school.

Matt Guilfoyle works for Fairfax County Public Schools. The district is in Virginia. Guilfoyle said that his school thinks it is better to have class. Still, parents may keep their children at home. They are allowed to do that if they do not think the weather is safe, he said.

When The Wind Chill Gets Below Zero

A school in Idaho talks about weather on its website. Temperatures can go below zero degrees, it says. The wind chill can get to 20 degrees below zero, the website says. Sometimes it is "necessary to close schools for the safety of our students," it says.

In Baltimore, Maryland, four schools closed because of bad heating. Students had been talking about the cold for a while.

Staying Warm When It Is Freezing Cold

The National Weather Service tells of ways to keep warm.

The group says to wear layers of loose, warm clothing. The air between the layers will warm you. They also say coats should have a hood.

The group says you should wear a hat. It says mittens are better than gloves. They keep your hands warmer.



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.