

## KIDS LOVE TRAVEL WRITING DAY OUTLINE

*Theme:* Only SOME people have the gift to write fiction...  
ANYONE can write about one thing they love to do (non-fiction).

### **Preparation:**

**Research Techniques** – multiple sources are best. Have every student participating prepare for our visit. The best, and easiest way is to **have each student collect information on a favorite travel site or attraction** they have visited in the last year. Be sure every student chooses a different location (repetition creates a stale, boring product). It can be a favorite State Park hike, an amusement, a beach area, historic village, or unusual museum. It may also be a large city icon or a small country roadside attraction.

**Take notes** from websites, brochures, travel guides and maybe pictures or postcards the student has collected. An outline for what information we need for advance research is on page 2 of this outline. Don't worry about the "flavor", format or spelling – that's where we come in...

### **Workshop:**

- **Format Style** – Boxed?(example: Kids Love Ohio) Essay?(example: Looking for Alaska).
- **Writing Exercise** – Take an idea from your head and put it on paper so that the reader sees the same image. In other words, deposit your thoughts into their mind.  
Technique: Write the word "Park" or "Museum". Ask several students what they think of when they see these words. Very different thoughts, right! Now, the author describes a Park or Museum, in detail, from the published book. Every reader should now have a very specific visual of that site.
- **Author Examples** – the author will now demonstrate examples of visual writing – Castles, Whistle Factories, Edison, Warther, 7 Caves or amazing Carousels.
- **Editing** – spell-check does most of the work, but what about the way the sentences sound? Can a stranger understand what you're trying to convey? Why were some of my stories printed in the text of the book and some were not?
- **Publishing** – what does a manuscript basically require (table of contents, page size, chapter headings, index, etc.)?
- **Create/Print** your own school "KIDS LOVE" mini-book!

*Note:* Examples of **actual** published book databases and manuscripts are used to illustrate each point.

### **Lunch:**

George or Michele enjoys eating lunch with the best non-fiction, research reporters in the school. Arrange for no more than 15 "reporters" to eat lunch with the author(s) during the day of the visit. Set up tables in a quiet corner of the school where the author and students can escape the usual cafeteria scene and spend a personal lunchtime with a real author. Nametags are helpful. Maybe have the hospitality committee serve Buckeye candies or OH cutout cookies for dessert. Each reporter-student should bring their lunch and a sample of their research writings OR "present" their material in a quick oral report.

### **Autographing:**

This is a priority and must be taken seriously (it's part of the agreed upon contract). Order forms should have been copied and sent home with each student and returned. Groups of students (no more than 25) should be dismissed near the end of the assembly (during project time) to line up and have their books personally signed by the author. The autograph station usually is a covered table in the back of a large room or just outside the door to the assembly room. A volunteer treasurer needs to be available at the same table to take additional book sales.

