Dear Circus Owner: I Should Be in Your Circus!

USE THESE INSTRUCTIONS WITH CIRCUS LETTER BRAINSTORMING PACKET

Overview  Write /dictate a letter describing why you are best person to hire for your favorite circus job.

Why?

By the end of this activity, child will

- Write (or dictate) a letter describing yourself
  - Use descriptive words and interesting facts.
  - Use proper grammar and letter writing conventions

- Describe how your interests and abilities fit with 1 or 2 circus jobs
  - Show knowledge of the job requirements
  - Describe your first and second job choices. Use persuasive language.
  - Explain with practical examples why you are the right person for these jobs

- Draw a picture of yourself doing the circus job you want
  - Show the exact job that you are most interested in doing
  - Use informative title and speech bubbles if appropriate
  - Use circus images and colors, costumes, props

What?

Get Ready

- Gather information about various circus jobs from friends, family, books and the web
- Select 3 or 4 jobs that sound most interesting to you
- Make a list of your favorite activities and interests
- Match your abilities and interests to your top 2 circus job choices
- Write (or dictate) a draft of your letter: Dear Circus Owner
- Revise and make final version of your letter.

TIME ESTIMATE

- Min. 1 – 2 hrs.

MATERIALS

- Circus books with pictures
- Paper, printer, etc.
- Art materials. Crayons, markers, paints, Graphics program.
My Multiple Intelligences engaged. . .

- Linguistic – word choice, expression, grammar, elements of a letter
- Intrapersonal – show matching of child’s interests and abilities from real life
- Visual-Spatial – images and graphic design inspired by the circus environment
- Interpersonal – show awareness of the circus owner’s views and needs. Is letter persuasive?
- Logical- Use reasoning in the letter that is logical, practical with argument supported with evidence

Preparation

- Gather information about various circus jobs from friends, family, books and the web
- Reflect on your own interests and successes. Talk with friends and family

Project Plan

Get Ready! Read the letter from the circus owner (below). Review the Brainstorming Packet topic 7.

Step 1. Research circus jobs. Select 3 or 4 jobs that sound interesting. Think about your own interests and abilities. Discuss with friends and family how your interests are best matched to 2 circus jobs.

Step 2. Help child get started writing or dictating a letter to the circus owner listing top 1 and 2 job choices. Describe how child’s interests and abilities are matched with those two job choices. Create draft.

Step 3. Provide feedback and suggestions on draft. Highlight key aspects for effectiveness. Consider word choice, elements of a letter
Step 4. Draw a picture of child doing the #1 circus job choice using circus images, colors, clothing, materials and tools, etc.

Step 5. Make your letter so it sounds interesting and persuasive. Use words and phrases from circus jargon. Make your drawing visually exciting with circus images, designs, colors and people. Use a title or speech bubbles for good effect.
   ● Written language: Word choice, phrases, quotations, etc.
   ●

Fun & Enthusiasm!

Make your letter so it sounds interesting and persuasive. Use words and phrases from circus jargon. Make your drawing visually exciting with circus images, designs, colors and people. Use a title or speech bubbles for good effect.
   ● Written language: Word choice, phrases, quotations, etc.
   ● Images? Graphic Design? Color scheme? Words?
**FINAL Reflections**

The parent should **not** provide an evaluation of the child’s letter. Instead, simply have a conversation around questions such as:

- What did you do?
- What stands out for you about this activity?
- What surprises you?
- What would you do differently, if you were to do it again?
- What would you like to do next?

**Class Equivalents / Main Skills**

Language Arts (persuasive language, grammar, sentence structure, coherence)

- Produce clear and coherent writing (CCSSW4)

**Resources**

**Tip:** Community Connections. Is there anyone in your family, neighborhood or community child can talk with about juggling?

**Letter from Dogs & Cats Spectacular Circus Owner**

Congratulations!
You have been selected to work for the circus for the weekend when it is coming to your community. We have received many more requests than we have available jobs. Please write a letter describing your top two job choices and why you are best suited to do these jobs. Describe your interests, skills, favorite school activities, hobbies, free time activities, favorite books, movies, etc.

Tell us why you want these either of these two jobs and we will do our best to match you to the right job.

We are like a big family at the circus. We spend long days entertaining many people. We all have to do more than one job to make the circus succesful. It takes a lot of team work to make sure that The Show Must Go On for three performances everyday.

Remember there is more to the circus than beautiful horses, bright lights, glamorous costumes and funny clowns.

We appreciate your enthusiasm for for the circus. With helpful people like you we will truly put on the Greatest Show on Earth!

Below is a list of some of the circus jobs that are important and essential. Let us know which two are of most interest to you. If there is something of interest to you that is not on this list, let us know.

**List of Circus Jobs**

**Visual-spatial**
- Make a poster – program- flier
- Put up the Big Top tent
_ Make clown costumes
_ Clown face painting
_ Design and operate the circus performance lights

**Kinesthetic**
_ Put up the Big Top tent
_ Clowning around
_ Juggling
_ Tight rope walking
_ Acrobat
_ Magician
_ Trapeze artist

**Musical**
_ Play in the band
_ Play the calliope
_ Sing
_ Write songs
_ Manage the sound system

**Linguistic**
_ Ringmaster
_ Promotional materials
_ Barker
_ Communicate with community people: email, phone calls, letters

**Naturalist**
_ Care for the animals (feed, sleeping, medications, exercise, etc.)
_ Make sure animals are safely transported via train or trucks
_ Animal training
_ Performing with horses, dogs, elephants, tigers, etc.
_ Make popcorn and snacks
Logical-mathematical

- Ticket sales
- Banking
- Payroll
- Time and record keeping
- Travel arrangements
- Operations: setting up tents, stages, etc.
- Manage community rules

Interpersonal

- Communicate with community people: email, phone calls, letters
- Ticket seller
- Barker
- Promoter
- Contact local news people: newspaper, TV, radio
- Manage circus people and daily schedule