**Writing Strategies for Persuasive Reviews: PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING WEB ACTIVITY TO ASSIST YOU:** [**http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/bookrev/index.htm**](http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/bookrev/index.htm)

Here are additional mini-lesson ideas:

* Create a title that lets your opinion be known. .
* Craft a topic sentence that grabs the reader's attention. *(Using a question is just one way to start. You may want to introduce other leads to your students as well. Get a few published reviews for specific examples.)*
* Use descriptions and specific examples to give the reader a visual.
* Think about writing for a specific audience.*(Would your review of African Cats change if you were writing to the mom of a very young child?)*
* Make comparisons. *(One movie to another movie, or a book to another book.)*
* End with a closing sentence that restates your opinion.

Review Guidelines

• The review should be relatively short with opinions delivered in a clear, concise manner.

• The factual material must be correct. Check all facts pertaining to the writer and the literature.

• The review should be firm and assertive, not wishy-washy. A reviewer must have a strong opinion.

•The reviewer is entitled to whatever opinion he or she has of the work be it positive or negative, but the opinion must be substantiated with details and

examples.

• The reviewer should establish a voice, tone, and personal style that make the review interesting.

1. Some ideas for a child to keep in mind while writing the review:
	* Does the book fit into a genre, like mystery or romance, and why?
	* When and where does the action in the book take place? Does the author do a good job of making you feel like you are there? How?
	* Are the main characters believable? Do you know anyone like them? Does the author adequately describe them?
	* What do you like or dislike about the author’s writing style? That is, do you like the way the author uses words?
	* Use concrete examples to back up your points, such as describing a scene that really moved you or using a couple of short quotes from the book.
	* Don’t forget to include your opinion of the book, whether you liked or disliked it.
2. Do some background research on the author. Sources might include the author’s personal website, the website for the book’s publisher, or biographies of the author. Learning information about the author and knowing what other books he or she may have written can add context to a review.