Purpose of the assignment:

• You will learn new vocabulary.
• You will use that vocabulary in your writing assignments.
• You will present an argument in support of working dogs.

Goal of the assignment:

You will communicate for a purpose—becoming an advocate for working dogs. In order to accomplish this goal, you will do the following tasks:

• Read about working dogs on various websites.
• Learn how to use the following “Power Words” in your discussions and writing:
  • Advocate  • Responsibility
  • Companion  • Rights
  • Heroic  • Service
  • Perspective  • Therapy
  • Power  • Work
• Create a comic strip story told from a working dog’s perspective.
• Make a newspaper, a brochure, a flier, or a booklet designed to inform the public about these dogs and advocate (speak up for their rights) for them.
Investigate

Use these websites to investigate:

1. **How do dogs work in our world?**
   Watch this interactive slide show about working dogs:
   NOVA: Dogs and More Dogs: Working Dogs
   (http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/dogs/working.html)

2. **Learn about some heroic dog deeds.**
   Working dogs are honored for their courage at this website:
   Extraordinary Dogs
   (http://www.thirteen.org/extraordinarydogs/)

3. **How do you feel about dogs used as actors on TV, commercials, or movies?**
   Read the story about the Taco Bell Dog on this website:
   Taco Bell Dog Story
   (http://www.everwonder.com/david/tacobell/story.html)

4. **What do you think about police dogs and their work?**
   Discover the work of FBI police dogs in the following jobs: service dogs, narcotics (drug) detection dogs, search and rescue dogs, and chemical/explosive (bomb) detection dogs on the following website:
   FBI Working Dogs
   (http://www.fbi.gov/kids/dogs/doghome.htm)

5. **Have you heard about Greyhound Adoption?**
   This site will teach you about how former racing greyhounds are placed with families to live as "real" dogs:
   Adopt-A-Greyhound
   (http://www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/)

6. **Play an interactive game.**
   Discover how dogs were bred for different "work," including hunting, racing, companionship, rescue, pulling sleds, sport-fighting, and herding at this site:
   Nova: Dogs and More Dogs: Dogs Around the World
   (http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/dogs/worl-flash.html)

7. **Find some great ideas about how to care for dogs:**
   How to Love Your Dog: A Kid's Guide to Dog Care
   (http://www.loveyourdog.com/)
**Create**

These are the writing projects you will complete:

1. **Write a comic strip from a dog’s perspective.**
   You will use an online tool to make a story about a dog’s perspective on one of the stories you read. The dog can "speak" to another animal or human through the use of speech bubbles.
   
   Visit the [Comic Creator](http://www.read writethink.org/materials/comic/index.html).

2. **Write a newspaper, booklet, flyer, or brochure to inform people about heroic working dogs.**
   In this project, you are supplying information about the working dogs and you are writing on their behalf—as their advocate.
   
   Visit the [ReadWriteThink Printing Press](http://interactives.mped.org/view_interactive.aspx?id=110&title=).

Use these websites to find additional pictures for your projects:

- **Greyhound Dog Breed Information Center**
  [http://www.dogbreedinfo.com/greyhound.htm]

- **Enchanted Learning: Dog Printouts**

- **American Kennel Club Coloring Book**

- **Nova: Dogs and More Dogs: Dogs Around the World**
  [http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/dogs/world.html]

- **Nova: Dogs and More Dogs: A Potpourri of Pooches**
  [http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/dogs/potpourri.html]

**Discuss**

We will talk about what we can do to advocate for these animals. We will also contact organizations that work to protect animals to show our support. These organizations include:

- **The Humane Society of the United States** ([www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org))

- **The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals** ([www.aspca.org](http://www.aspca.org))

**Present**

Present your work in class. We will discuss what the best way to present our work is, either on a board or using a computer program to make a slide show. We will also talk about whether we want to invite our families or members of the community to see our presentations.