

# WORKING DOGS ASSIGNMENT HANDOUT



## 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)

(<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/)

(<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)

(<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)

(<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/)

(<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)

(<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/)

(<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.readwritethink.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=](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  
(<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/mammals/dog/index.shtml>)
- American Kennel Club Coloring Book  
([http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/coloring\\_book.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/coloring_book.pdf))
- 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.

