



WRITE A REVIEW—Beginning Health Advocates

NOTE: Teachers should decide whether to use the lesson plan for *Beginning Health Advocates (BHA)* or *Advanced Health Advocates (AHA)*, depending on the students’ prior experiences with *Healthy NewsWorks* and students’ developmental/ability levels.

This is a one-day writing lesson. Before the lesson, students should become familiar with a health-related media—see a video, play a game, read a health-related books, etc. Teachers may want to preselect a few games and videos for students to access in the days before this writing lesson. See list below.

Objective(s)	Students will write a review of a health-related game, website, video, or book.
Essential Understandings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students have opinions about the media they read, watch, and play. 2. Students can write up and publish these opinions. 3. Student-written opinions can help other kids decide what media they want to try.
Standards Addressed	<p>W.5.8 Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work, and provide a list of sources.</p> <p>W.5.1 Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.</p>
Key Vocabulary	<p>review – a piece of writing that gives readers information and an opinion about a product or service they may want to use</p> <p>opinion – a belief, thought, or feeling</p>
Materials Needed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Handout with assignment. 2. Materials for students to review: any health-related book, video, app, or game, or game. Here are some links: <p>Health-related web games</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy NewsWorks games healthynewsworks.org/game/ • Match It Fitness game https://tinyurl.com/HNWgame3 • Dental Jigsaw game https://tinyurl.com/HNWgame4 <p>Health-related books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask your HNW Teacher for suggestions <p>Health-related videos/websites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GoNoodle Rest Well https://tinyurl.com/HNWvideo1 • How To Brush Your Teeth video: https://tinyurl.com/HNWvideo2
Introduction: Anticipatory Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group students to watch/play health related games online, and/or read health-related books.



Writing the Review— Lesson	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read aloud a sample review game (see below)2. Ask students: Does this sound like a game you want to try? What did the reviewer say that made you curious? Do you believe the reviewer? Why/not?3. Say: Let’s play the game together. Did you feel the same way as the reviewer did about what was in this review? Make an anchor chart (see below) with students, to guide their independent writing.4. Say: You can write a review, too! Kids usually respect and trust other students’ opinions about media when they are honest and give details.5. Ask: What do you want to review? Choose one or more of the selected health-related games and videos, or books of your choice; also list ones you know.6. Depending on students’ abilities, you can assign them a health-related website, book, or game to review. Or you can ask them to choose one.7. Use handout to write independently. Use either of the differentiated review planners below. Please adapt them if your students are reviewing a book or a video.
Dig Deeper (Optional)	Add another requirement to the review: What <i>improvements</i> could the author of this game/video/ book/ website make, to make it more educational and fun?
Check for Understanding	Students read their reviews to their peers, and peers make a list of the media they want to try, based on their peers’ reviews.



WHAT MAKES A GOOD REVIEW?

(BHA Notes for a classroom anchor chart)

A good review will

- Tell the **name** of what you are reviewing
- Tell **what kind of media** it is: a game, website, book, or video
- **Summarize!** In one or two sentences, tell **how you play** the game, **what information** is on the website, or **what the book or video is about**
- Tell **what it teaches** you about health
- Tell whether the reviewer **liked it or not, and explain why**
- Tell **what age** the reviewer recommends this for



Share the review samples below with your students!

Game review

Reprinted page from Healthy Neighbors Community Edition Newspaper (2018)
By Whitehall Elementary School reporters

Wheel Spin

How the game works: To play the Wheel Spin game you press the spin button and the arrow moves. A stop button makes the arrow stop. Then the game will ask you a question so you can get points if you get the answer right. There are 10 questions.

What you learn: The game teaches children about using websites and how to tell whether they are safe to use.

My opinion: I liked the game because it quizzes you like you're at a game show. Also, it helps you get information about what websites you should use. I also liked the intro theme song. I think people who are 8 to 10 years old who enjoy playing cyber games or like to learn about websites would like the game because they could learn more.

Book review

Reprinted page from Healthy Neighbors Community Edition Newspaper (2014)
By Cole Manor Elementary School reporters

Hear Your Heart

By Paul Showers

"Hear Your Heart" is an informational book with a lot of great pictures. This book is only 33 pages and it is published by HarperCollins. It is filled with lots of interesting facts about the heart. For example, did you know that your heart is about as big as your fist?

Another interesting fact is that the heart is a strong muscle that works day and night. The heart has veins, arteries, and valves. Valves keep the blood moving in the right direction. The veins and arteries transport the blood to and from the heart.

We also learned that a fourth grader's heart beats about 90 times a minute, but an adult's heart beats about 72 times a minute.

We think kids ages 7 and up should read the book because they will understand it better than younger kids.



Review of a web game (with sentence starters)

The name of this game is _____

To play this game, you have to _____

It teaches us _____

I liked / did not like it because _____

I think people who are _____ years old would like this game

because _____

—By _____

(Name of student who wrote the review)



Planning your review of a web game: Prewriting

1. What is the name of the game, and what is it about?

2. How do you play this game? _____

3. What does it teach you? _____

4. Did you like it? Why or why not? _____

5. Who do you think would enjoy this game? How old should they be?

Use the information above to write your review.