

# ALASKA: Where men are men and women win the Iditarod!

**Developed by:** Terrie Hanke

**Discipline / Subject:** Language Arts

**Topic:** Internet research and persuasive writing

**Grade Level:** 5 – 8 Middle School

**Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:**

Iditarod Reading Bibliography

**Lesson Summary:** Students will research the winners of the Iditarod. Based upon their findings, they will write a persuasive paper supporting or negating the statement, “Alaska: Where men are men and women win the Iditarod.”

**Standard’s Addressed: McREL Language Arts - Writing**

1. Uses the general skills and strategies of the writing process.
2. Uses the stylistic and rhetorical aspects of writing.
3. Uses grammatical and mechanical conventions in written compositions.

**Learning objectives:**

1. Students will research the previous winners of the Iditarod.
2. With the information gathered, students will agree or disagree with the statement, “Alaska: Where men are men and women win the Iditarod.”
3. Students will create an outline for a persuasive paper.
4. Students will write a paper to support or negate the statement.

**Assessment:**

- Method of assessment for learning
1. Did the student clearly present an argument for or against the statement in a 3-paragraph paper?
  2. Did the student create an outline before writing the paper?
  3. Did the student commit 5 or fewer errors in punctuation, form and structure?

**Procedural Activities**

1. Research the previous winners of the Iditarod – Names, dates and gender.
2. Based on the information, decide whether you agree or disagree with the statement.
3. Create an outline to express your opinion.
4. From the outline, write a paper of 3 paragraphs expressing your opinion.

**Materials Students Need:**

Record of previous winners of the Iditarod along with dates.

**Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:**

Research winners on the Iditarod or Cabela’s web site.

**Other Information**

Provides an opportunity to discuss appreciation for the performance of non-traditional participants in sports or other activities. Female mushers are participating in a male dominated sport.

**Modifications for special learners/ Enrichment Opportunities**

Students might consider the physical differences between genders as they participate in sporting events.

**Notes:** Wisconsin Model Academic Standard – Physical Education G.8.4  
Recognize how participation in physical activity influences appreciation for people of both genders, varying cultures and ethnic groups and those with various levels of physical ability or disability.



Terrie's favorite T-shirt