

*Go-Along Page 1*

# Do I Have Your Attention?

Match each type of lead to the examples below.

Type of Lead	Example
1. A startling fact/idea	_____ Whales are giants in the ocean. Giant squids, though big for their species, can't compare in size and weight to a whale. You might be surprised, however, at the ways a giant squid is superior to a whale.
2. A statistic	_____ "Hey, squid! Get outta the way or I'll just gobble you up for dinner." "Oh yeah? Try it, big guy. I can bring you down if you aren't careful. You should treat me with respect."
3. A dialogue	_____ The average whale weighs between 200,000 and 300,000 pounds. The average giant squid weighs about 440 pounds. But weight isn't everything in a battle between these two great animals.
4. A scenario	_____ You'd be shocked by the damage a giant squid can do to an enormous whale in a fight to the death.
5. A comparison	_____ Imagine a huge whale, bigger than a house, swimming up to a much smaller giant squid, ready to munch on the giant squid for a mid-morning snack. If you were the squid, would you just surrender, or do you have weapons to save yourself and take on the whale—and win?

*Write-On Sheet 1*

# Who Would Win?

Write the two animals you've chosen.

\_\_\_\_\_ **vs.** \_\_\_\_\_

Write an opening paragraph for an opinion paper about which animal would win a contest of strength. Be sure to create a strong lead—and, when you're finished, label it with the type of lead you chose.

## THINK ABOUT

- Did I give the reader something interesting to think about right from the start?
- Will the reader want to keep reading?
- Have I tried to get the reader's attention?
- Did I let the reader know what is coming?

# Sentence Strips

Scientific name of giant squid: "Architecthis dux."

A giant squid is a mollusk.

A squid belongs to a group of mollusks called cephalopods.

*Cephalopod* means "head foot."

A squid looks like a head attached to legs.

It has eight legs and two extra feeder arms.

The legs have suction cups.

The feeder arms have hooks and suction cups on the ends that act like hands.

The giant squid has fins for steering.

It propels itself by sucking water into its head and squeezing the water out.

A squid works the same way as a jet engine.

A giant squid can be 60 feet long and weigh 450 pounds.

Most giant squid that have washed up on beaches are 20 to 30 feet long.

That's a lot of calamari!

*Go-Along Page 2*

## Calling All Squids

Create two logically organized paragraphs from the sentence strips your teacher provides. Be sure to give your final piece a title.

*Write-On Sheet 2*

# A Giant Ready for Battle

Using information from *Who Would Win? Whale vs. Giant Squid*, create a short opinion piece about which animal would win in battle: the giant squid or the whale. Use sequence and transition words to link ideas. Underline them.

## THINK ABOUT

- Did I use sequence words (*later, then, meanwhile*)?
- Did I use transition words (*however, because, also*)?
- Do my ideas connect from sentence to sentence?
- Does my organization make sense from paragraph to paragraph?

*Go-Along Page 3*

## Organizing Details

List details in the projected pages from *Who Would Win? Whale vs. Giant Squid*. Next to each detail, indicate where you found it: in the running text, in a call-out text feature, or in the title.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

*Write-On Sheet 3*

## More Details, Please

Create some text features that would fit on the projected pages of *Who Would Win? Whale vs. Giant Squid* to provide additional information and insights.

### THINK ABOUT

- Have I shown the reader where to slow down and where to speed up?
- Do all the details fit where they are placed?
- Will the reader find it easy to follow my ideas?
- Does the organization help the main idea stand out?

*Go-Along Page 4*

## Who Has the Advantage? Checklist

Fill in the checklist based on the facts in *Who Would Win? Whale vs. Giant Squid*. Which animal has the advantage in each category?

Whale	Category	Giant Squid
_____	Length	_____
_____	Weight	_____
_____	Brain	_____
_____	Eyes	_____
_____	Teeth	_____
_____	Weapons	_____
_____	Speed	_____

Did any of these findings surprise you, and if so, in what way? How did the author use these facts to form his final opinion about who would win?



*Write-On Sheet 4*

## Take the Challenge!

Write your opinion of *Who Would Win? Whale vs. Giant Squid's* ending. Then come up with an ending of your own.

### THINK ABOUT

- Have I wrapped up all the loose ends?
- Have I ended at the best place?
- Do I have an ending that makes my writing feel finished?
- Did I leave the reader with something to think about?