

Writing Prompts

Adapted from educationworld.com

Presented by Johns

Description

Writing prompts are descriptions of situations designed to interest students in a topic and encourage them to write about it in a thoughtful and creative way. Imagine that you have been asked to create 10 writing prompts to use in your own classroom. What 10 prompts would be most likely to spark your students' imagination and creativity?

Are you looking for effective writing prompts like the one above? Do you want to create your own? Here's what you need to know:

Effective writing prompts include two basic components; a situation and directions. The **situation** presents the general topic students are to write about. The situation should be interesting to students and consistent with their experience and/or realm of imagination. The **directions** describe a specific task students must complete as they respond to the situation. Directions should be stated in a way that encourages students to share their knowledge and experience and inspires their thought and creativity.

Writing prompts can be narrative, expository, or persuasive. Narrative prompts describe a real or imaginary event and invite students to tell a story about it. Expository prompts ask students to provide information about a topic. Persuasive prompts present an opinion or viewpoint and require students to take a position and convince the reader to agree with it. Before writing your prompt, be sure to determine the purpose of the assignment, the goals of the writing, and the criteria you will use to assess the achievement of those goals, and then decide which type of prompt will achieve those goals best.

That's all there is to it! Simply:

- Determine the purpose of the assignment, the goals of the writing, and the assessment criteria you will use.
- Decide which type of prompt will meet those goals best.
- Create a situation that interests students and is consistent with their experience and/or imagination.
- Write directions that encourage students to share their knowledge and experience, and spark their creativity.