

Elementary School Writing Prompts



Grade 3: Describe the way the poplar grows his branches. Explain why the tree decides to grow them this way and how the actions of the Old Man, Iris, Zeus, and Mercury lead to his decision. Use details from the story to support your answer.

In your response, be sure to include:

- The direction in which the poplar tree's branches grow
- The events that made the tree's branches grow this way
- The roles that the Old Man, Iris, Zeus, and Mercury play in the decision
- Details from the story to support your answer
- Write your answer in complete sentences.



Grade 5: Both stories are told from the perspective of an animal. How does this perspective affect how the stories are told? Compare and contrast how Black Beauty and the robin view their surroundings. Using details from both passages, describe how the animals' perspectives influence how events are described.

In your response, be sure to:

- Describe the perspective of Black Beauty from "Black Beauty"
- Describe the perspective of the robin from "The Secret Garden"
- Explain how each author uses these perspectives to help the reader understand the events as they unfold
- Use details from both stories
- Write your response in complete sentences.

Middle School Writing prompts

Narrative



Your school is putting together a book of real-life scary stories. All students have been asked to write a narrative describing the scariest thing that ever happened to them. Think about the scariest thing that ever happened to you. Write a description of that experience.

Be sure to include:

- Background information to help your readers understand the situation
- A descriptive memorable moment (the most important part)
- Details about what happened in the order that they happened
- What you learned from the experience



Imagine that your school is putting together a book of real-life funny stories. All students have been asked to write a short narrative describing the funniest thing that ever happened to them. Think about a funny thing that happened to you once. Write a description of that experience.

Be sure to include:

- Background information to help your readers understand the situation
- A descriptive memorable moment (the most important part)
- Details about what happened in the order that they happened
- What you learned from the experience



Imagine that you are entering a contest and the prize is a paid-for day of fun for you and seven of your friends. The person who writes the best story describing a memorable experience will win.

Write to the contest organizers describing a true memorable experience. Be sure to include:

- Background information to help your readers understand the situation
- A descriptive memorable moment (the most important part)
- Details about what happened in the order that they happened
- What you learned from the experience



A good friend of yours wrote you an email that described a big disappointment he or she had. Your friend has asked you to write about something disappointing that has happened to you.

Write about the most disappointing thing that ever happened to you. Be sure to include:

- Background information to help your readers understand the situation
- A descriptive memorable moment (the most important part)
- Details about what happened in the order that they happened
- What you learned from the experience



Your school is putting together a book of real-life sports stories. All students have been asked to write a narrative describing the sportiest thing they ever did. It must be something you participated in. Write a description of that experience. Be sure to include:

- Background information to help your readers understand the situation
- A descriptive memorable moment (the most important part)
- Details about what happened in the order that they happened
- What you learned from the experience
- Check your writing for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation



Write an email that describes a disappointment with the outcome of a competition.

Be sure to include:

- Background information to help your readers understand the situation
- A descriptive memorable moment (the most important part)
- Details about what happened in the order that they happened
- What you learned from the experience
- Check your writing for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Persuasive



Imagine your school has been given some money to spend on a project to improve the school. The choices are a new: indoor swimming pool, music room or computer lab. All the students in the school will vote to decide which project will be selected. Write an editorial convincing the people in your school to build the ONE you think is best - either an indoor pool, a music room or a computer lab.

- A clear statement of your opinion
- At least two arguments supporting your opinion (supporting arguments)
- The other side's opinion and why you disagree with it.



Imagine this situation: Some people in your neighborhood want to tear down local stores like delis, Chinese restaurants and dollar stores to make room for a new park. Other people do not want this. They want to keep the local stores right where they are. What is your opinion?

Write an editorial to convince people that your neighborhood either needs a park, or that your neighborhood needs stores. Be sure to include:

- A clear statement of your opinion
- At least two arguments supporting your opinion (supporting arguments)
- The other side's opinion and why you disagree with it.



Grade 7: Describe how the main character of “The Quest of the Silver Fleece” and the speaker of “Home” feel initially and how each one’s feelings change over time.

In your response, be sure to:

- Describe how the character in “The Quest of the Silver Fleece” feels at the beginning of his journey and how his feelings change
- Describe how the speaker in “Home” feels upon returning home and how the speaker’s feelings change.
- Describe similarities and/or differences in the change of feelings experienced in both passages.
- Use details from both passages in your response.

Imagine that your principal is thinking about adding in a girl's football team (or another sport). Write an editorial convincing the people in your school that this is a good idea, or a bad idea. Be sure to include:

- A clear statement of your opinion
- At least two arguments supporting your opinion (supporting arguments)
- The other side's opinion and why you disagree with it.
- Check your writing for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.



Many people think that students getting cheated out of PE and there isn't enough time for recess and/or physical activity. Other people think that this is a good idea because students need to focus on their skills. What is your opinion?

Write an editorial for your school paper that is either **in favor or against it**. Be sure to include:

- A clear statement of your opinion
- At least two arguments supporting your opinion (supporting arguments)
- The other side's opinion and why you disagree with it
- Check your writing for correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

All Content Areas

Writing for Mathematics and Science



- From: *Write for Mathematics*, Rothstein, Rothstein & Lauber, 2007

Personifications and Interactions

- This strategy helps students expand knowledge and gain greater insight into mathematical concepts and ideas through the use of imagination and role-play in writing. This is how it works:
- Students assume the point of view of a mathematical term or concept, for example "I am a numeral, I can take many forms..."
- Student explains the attributes or characteristics of mathematical terms or concepts. Example, "I am the diameter. Look for me in a circle or globe. Without me, the radius is meaningless."
- Student writes about the history of the term or concept. For example, "I am zero, the symbol that shows place value. But for a long time, no one understood me, except some astute mathematicians in India."
- Student describes the cultural background. For example, "I am the Hebrew symbol called chai. When I am thought of simply as letters, I mean life..."
- An Arabic numeral writing to a roman numeral
- A Roman numeral defending itself
- Fibonacci explains his patterns
- Plane and Dimension write letters to each other
- Create Your Own Number Patterns
- Correspondence between a hand and a foot

- Globe monologue: circumference, radius, diameter. “Be sure to explain what these terms mean and describe what you look like. Imagine that your audience is a cube.”
 - A Martian discovers the Hundred Chart and writes a letter to tell about it.
 - E-mail to a Martian about the Hundred Chart
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High School - Persuasive



- Students **analyze and take a stand on** the governmental **structure** of the United States and **support their analysis by citing specific textual evidence** from **primary sources** such as the Preamble and First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution as well as secondary sources such as Linda R. Monk’s Words We Live By: Your Annotated Guide to the Constitution. [RH.6–8.1]



- Students **evaluate** Jim Murphy’s The Great Fire to identify which aspects of the text (e.g., **loaded language and the inclusion of particular facts**) reveal his purpose; presenting Chicago as a city that was “ready to burn.” [RH.6–8.6]