

Introduction

The prompts for writing are divided into six categories: Narrative, Expository, Persuasive, Descriptive, Poetry, and Journals. Most writing prompts contain questions that can be used to generate classroom discussions. The questions are intended to spark the thought process and need not be answered fully. Discuss the topic/questions thoroughly with the students before they begin writing so that they are aware of the expectations. It is strongly recommended that you model each of the different forms of writing multiple times throughout the year in order for students to become more familiar with the style in which the prompts are to be written.

The writing prompts are designed to be used in a variety of ways including whole class or individual writing assignments, homework, center writing, small group writing, or writing test practice. Writing prompts may be assigned or students may choose their own. The method by which prompts are introduced is up to you. For less experienced writers, it is best to begin with class discussion and teacher direction. Having students draw pictures to go along with their writing is also recommended. With practice and the experience of writing in each category, students will enhance their overall writing ability.

Narrative

Have you ever heard the phrase, “practice makes perfect?” There are many situations you will encounter in which practice is the only way to improve. Think of something that you had to practice over and over again. What were you practicing? What did you learn from this experience? Write a narrative about this experience. Be sure to give specific examples in your narrative.



Expository

What is your favorite kind of cookie? Explain how to make these cookies. What ingredients do you need? What temperature should the oven be set to and how long should the cookies bake? Are these cookies the kind that don't need baking? Think through the process before writing it so that you do not forget any steps.



Descriptive

Describe the perfect chair that you would design if you were given the opportunity. What is the color and shape of the chair? Describe the style and materials used in the chair. How high is the chair off the ground? Are there any special things that this chair can do? Describe why this is the perfect chair. Include an illustration with your description.

