

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

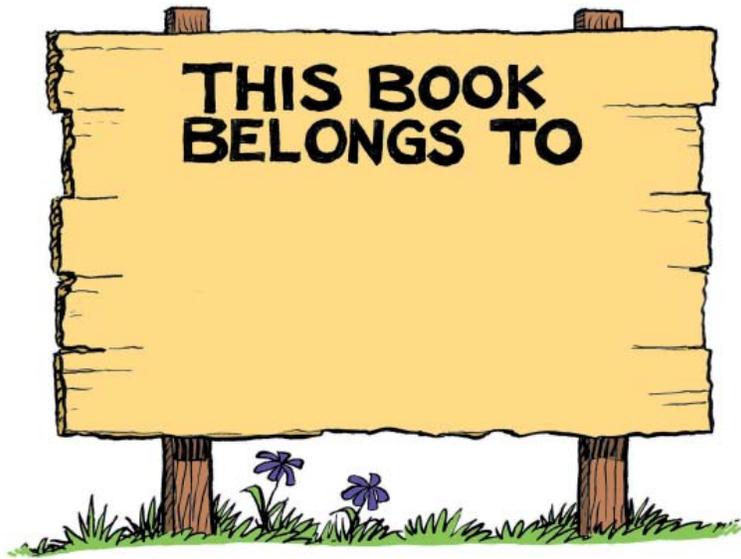


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1

Where Do IDEAS Come From?

Dreams
 Movies
 Chapter Books
 Picture Books
 Magazines
 Nature
 Personal Anecdotes
 Daydreams
 Fantasies
 Friends
 The Internet
 Conversations
 Famous Sayings
 Science
 Brainstorming
 Problem Solving
 Wondering
 Personal Experiences
 Feelings
 Newspaper Articles
 Headlines
 The Evening News

Bloopers
 You Tube
 Jokes
 Riddles
 Nursery Rhymes
 Family Traditions
 Family Stories
 Historical Events
 Pictures
 Text Messages
 Current Events
 Facebook
 Maps
 Myths and Legends
 Science Fiction
 Curious Objects
 Souvenirs
 Radio
 Fables
 Traditions



2

The 12 Steps of the Writing Process

1. Think it
2. Talk it
3. Do it
4. Draw it
5. Explain it
6. Gather Vocabulary & Put Money in the Bank
7. Watch Modeling
8. Write it
9. Read it Aloud
10. Revise it
11. Edit it
12. Share it



Narrative Writing

The word narrative means story. In a story, things happen in a certain order and there is the passing of time.

A personal narrative prompt asks you to tell about a time something happened to you. This can be something that actually happened, or you can make it up.

A creative narrative prompt asks you to write a story about imaginary characters, places, and happenings. You can use all of your creative powers for this one. A creative narrative can be realistic or fantasy.

Examples of narrative writing are:

- interesting or cool stories
- dreams and nightmares
- adventures
- embarrassing stories
- things that have happened to you
- historical fiction
- fairy tales, fantasy, or science fiction



Narrative Topics

- A trip to the dentist
- Going shopping for something I've wanted
- Something scary happened to me
- My best friend and I had an adventure
- I went to my grandmother's house
- I helped cook dinner
- I got a new pet
- I saw something that made me laugh
- I fed the bird in my backyard
- My family went to the beach
- My family helped someone who needed help
- What happened on my birthday
- A time I got hurt
- I did something that got me into trouble
- A time I got lost
- Our family faced a big storm
- I borrowed something and lost it
- My sister told on me
- A television show made me laugh
- I made a big mistake
- I went to the circus/concert/play



...Narrative topics

- I helped clean-out and wash the car
- My sister and I made brownies
- Something woke me up in the night
- I made a fort with my friend
- I rode my bike somewhere
- Someone special came to visit
- Something funny made me laugh
- I played on the team
- We went fishing

- Someone hurt my feelings
- I acted in a rude way
- I had the best day
- We went to the mall
- We took a trip
- I make a huge mess
- I saw something amazing



- A dream I've had
- A time I made/built something
- Someone played a joke on me

Expository Writing

An expository prompt asks you to explain some information and give reasons and details that support the topic. Expository writing is usually "about" a topic and teaches you facts and information.

Expository writing is usually realistic. It can be truth, or fiction. Think about it as writing to inform the reader.

Examples of expository writing are:

- non-fiction
- directions
- instructions
- hobbies
- games
- sporting events
- how-to
- advice
- news reports
- explanations
- plans and goals





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Expository topics

My favorite meal
 Someone I think is cool
 A teacher who rocks
 Stuff under my bed
 How I get ready for school each morning
 What I like to do on a Saturday
 Someplace I'd like to visit
 An easy-to-make snack
 An animal I think is cool
 Why hurricanes are dangerous
 My grandfather
 How our custodian helps our school
 The life of a butterfly



How to ride a skateboard
 A job I'd like to try
 Something I'm good at
 A magic trick I've learned



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...Expository topics

Three foods I hate
 Stuff I've collected
 My favorite present
 The people who live with me
 Introducing: Our Principal
 My Church (Synagogue, club, etc.)
 Going to the beach is a blast
 How to keep from going crazy on a car trip
 Something I'm afraid of
 How to build a fort
 All about my bedroom
 A book I enjoyed reading
 A chore I do for my family
 Bedtime at my house
 Something I've learned how to do



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Persuasive Writing

Persuasive writing means the writer takes a position FOR or AGAINST something and writes to convince the reader to believe a specific point or do something he wants him to do.

Persuasive writing might also involve weighing the pros and cons on a given topic. The point has to make sense, give reasons, and be convincing.

Examples of persuasive writing are:

advertisements
 reviews
 brochures
 courtroom arguments
 opinions
 comparisons/contrasts
 debates
 pleading your innocence
 accusations



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...Persuasive Writing

In order to convince the reader, you'll need more than just your own opinion, however. You'll need backup, such as facts, a quote from an expert, personal testimonials, details, eye-witnesses, charts, samples, pictures, and examples.



1. Choose your position.

Weigh the pros and cons. Which side are you on? State your case clearly.

2. Consider your audience.

Who are you writing for? Who do you want to convince? How old is your audience? Consider the type of language and words you will use to convince your specific readers.

3. Research your topic.

Use the Internet. Interview experts. Get opinions. Ask for testimonials and endorsements. Quote books, articles, or experts. Add pictures.

4. Organize your thoughts.

Don't go on and on. Firmly state your case.



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Per suasive Topics

which restaurant is best
 why my state is a great place to live
 we should wear or not wear school uniforms
 athletes are paid way too much
 kids should be allowed to stay up later
 we should all eat healthy foods
 cigarette smoking is bad news
 why we should take more field trips to cool places
 soccer is the best sport
 why college is or is not for everyone
 kids should be allowed to have jobs to make money
 homework is too much for kids to do at night
 bullies should be banned from sports and activities
 eat healthy snacks and stay away from junk food
 computer games are educational
 school at night would be fun
 swimming pools at school is a great idea
 I've read a good book you would love
 try to save your family money

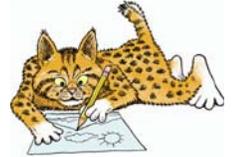


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...Per suasive Topics

a hot climate is better for you than a cold climate
 people should take better care of their animals
 being an oceanographer is a terrific job
 you don't have to buy brand new, expensive clothes
 it's not easy being the "new kid"
 my candidate is better than your candidate
 kids should be able to pick their own bedtimes
 hunting for animals is right/wrong
 when you are sick, you should stay home
 take care not to spread germs
 flying is no more dangerous than driving
 there are benefits to playing outside
 be responsible for your own stuff
 Disney World is the most fun place on earth
 living near the ocean is great fun or is costly and dangerous
 global warming is for real
 every person should "give back" to the world



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sentence variety

All writing needs variety! When you are practicing writing, see how many ways you can write the same thought or idea:



Last week, our class went on a picnic at Park field and had so much fun.

All 23 of us in Mr. Becker's class piled into a big, yellow bus a few days ago and went out to the country for...you guessed it...a slammin' picnic!

Take one picnic basket, one bus full of kids, one bright sunny day, and what do you get? A picnic, of course, and that's what all of us in Mr. Becker's class did last week.

Who would think 23 kids and one teacher could have such a ball having something as simple as a picnic?



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The Five Main Parts of Writing

- 1. Grabber** - This is a sentence or two that "hooks" your reader and makes him want to read more.
- 2. Beginning** - This is a sentence that tells your reader what you are writing about. Be sure to include one or two important words from the prompt.
- 3. Middle** - The middle is where you write details that go together and details that create "mind movies" for your reader. The middle should be orderly and organized. Be sure to include interesting facts, examples, reasons, mini-stories, and descriptions that help your reader picture what you are writing about. It is a good idea to indent when you change ideas or move on to a different time or location.
- 4. Ending** - This is a sentence or two that wraps up your paper by telling the reader the most important thing you want to say.
- 5. Zinger** - The zinger is kind of like a grabber, only at the end of your paper. A zinger can be an idiom, a phrase, or a sentence that makes the reader feel, laugh or think.





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Grabbers

A grabber is an opening sentence or two that captures the reader's attention.

The grabber can be:

a humorous statement

Sometimes I truly believe my mom has an extra set of eyes in the back of her head.

a shocking statement

If you stacked up all of my little brother's diapers that I've changed, they'd reach to the moon and back!

dialogue

When I saw the mess my dog CoCo made in my room, I shouted, "CoCo, you're driving me CRAZY!"

onomatopoeia

I heard the ping-ping-ping of the other paintball guys and knew they were trying to take me out.



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...Grabbers

a rhetorical question

Do you ever get the feeling that the substitute is out to get you?

a scenario

Picture this: It's your mom's birthday and you've checked EVERYWHERE and you still don't have any money for a present.

an opinion

I don't care what anyone says: the Chicago Cubs is the best team that ever played our national sport, baseball.

a comparison

Owning a horse you can ride is cool, but having a dog of your own has its advantages.

If you had a taste of living where there are four, clear seasons, you'd never want to live where there's basically only one year-round season again.



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Takeaway Endings

A takeaway ending tells the reader what you learned or how your life has changed.

Takeaway endings often start with:

After all is said and done...

Amazing as it might seem...

As I have said...

As I look back on...

Don't be surprised if...

Don't make the same mistake I did...

For now...

I hope you'll agree that...

I'll always remember...

I'm the luckiest kid in the world because...

It's certainly true that...

Just remember...

Most of all...

My life will be different now because...

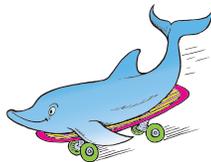
That about wraps it up...

The lesson I learned was...

There's no doubt about it...

There's no question that...

You can learn from my example...



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Conclusions

A conclusion looks at important points, or "clues," in the writing and makes a statement based on those clues.

Conclusions often start with:

Because of this evidence, I can say...

Because of this, we can agree...

Evidence proves...

Experts agree...

For these reasons...

I now know for sure that...

I think we can say without a doubt...

My experiment proves...

Now you can see...

These things all add up to the conclusion that...

These things lead us to believe...

This experience leads me to believe...

This information is powerful when you see it all together.

When we look at it this way, we can see...



Emergency Landings

Sometimes, especially when you are being timed, time runs out and you have to end quickly. If you can use a well thought out ending, that's great. But if you get panicky, you can use what we call an "emergency landing." Memorize a few of these. If you get in a tight spot, you can finish out the sentence and you've got an ending!

I've come to the end of my thoughts.
This sums up my viewpoint.
I could go on and on, but let me end by saying...
I hope I've convinced you that...
My paper wouldn't be complete unless
I mentioned...
Since time is of the essence, I must
end by saying...
The main thing I want to remind you
of is...
I hope you can tell that I'm
passionate about...
Thank you for sticking with me while I explained...
Even though I'm just a kid, I wanted you to know...



zingers

A zinger is a little extra we add AFTER THE ENDING, just to impress the reader.

The zinger makes you:

FEEL, SMILE, or THINK

The zinger can be a single word:

Ole! Bravo! Halleluia! Eureka!

The zinger can be a quote, a phrase, a song lyric, a line of poetry, or a familiar saying.

Some examples of zingers are:

I'll never do THAT again!

Thanks, Mom.

Cha-ching!

Go Team!

Love conquers all.

Better safe, than sorry.

Look before you leap.

If life gives you lemons, make lemonade.

Believe me, this won't ever happen again.



eight Grammar "Stars"

★ Don't use double negatives.

Jake doesn't have no friends. = Jake doesn't have any friends.

★ When something belongs to someone, be sure to use apostrophe and then the letter s ('s) to show ownership.

That is Lila bookbag. = That is Lila's bookbag.



★ Every sentence must have a subject and a verb.

Darius last Saturday. = Darius scored 12 baskets last Saturday.

★ Separate a list of nouns, adjectives, or adverbs by commas.

I bought ham cheese turkey. = I bought ham, cheese, and turkey.

★ Use the words IS, AM, or ARE in the present tense (now).

She be my best friend. = She is my best friend.

...Eight Grammar "stars"

★ Make sure your subject and verb "agree" with each other. Agreeing means they go together correctly.

He run to the store for milk. = He ran to the store for milk.

★ The words EVERYBODY, ANYBODY, ANYONE, EACH, NEITHER, NOBODY, SOMEONE, and A PERSON are singular. They take singular pronouns: his, her, or its.

Someone better get their stuff out of my desk =

Someone better get his stuff out of my desk.

(her stuff would be correct, too)



★ If you are writing in the first person (I, me, my, we, our, us), don't switch to the third person (he, she, they, it). You can refer to other people, but keep your "point of view" as though you are writing and seeing things with your own eyes.

I ate breakfast. Then he brushed his teeth and got my coat. =

I ate breakfast. Then I brushed my teeth and got my coat.

punctuation

Make sure to check your writing for these:



Capital Letters

These guys are so important! ALWAYS begin a sentence with a capital letter. Use a capital letter for every proper noun or name.



periods

ALWAYS end every ordinary sentence with a period. A period is like a stop sign. It tells the reader he has arrived at the end of a complete thought.



exclamation point

If you want to show excitement of any kind, ALWAYS use an exclamation point! If you're REALLY excited, use several exclamation points!!!



question mark

If you're asking a question, ALWAYS use a question mark. This is the sign for the reader to ask himself, "Hmm... what IS the answer to that question?"

...punctuation



indentation



ALWAYS indent the first paragraph of anything you're writing. Indent every time you introduce a new idea, new speaker, change times, or location.



commas in a series

ALWAYS use commas between words in a series: nouns, adjectives, adverbs, etc.



quotation marks

ALWAYS use quotation marks when someone is speaking.



Ellipsis

When you want to create a pause in your writing, ALWAYS use an ellipsis. An ellipsis is three little dots in a row and is a sign for your reader to pause. Using an ellipsis helps add tone and voice to your writing.

capital letters

Be sure to use capital letters for the following:

The beginning of a sentence
 Someone's name
 Days of the week
 Months of the year
 A brand name
 A television show
 A movie
 A book title
 A poem title
 A magazine title
 A newspaper
 A play
 The name of a city
 The name of a state
 The name of a country
 Titles



Colleges and Universities
 Languages
 Religions
 Ethnicity
 Nationalities

five Things for Writers to Focus On

Focus - Are all of your sentences on the topic? Does everything focus in on the main idea?

Organization - Do you have a beginning, a middle, and an ending? Are things in order?

Support - Did you support a main idea with juicy details your reader can picture? Does your writing feel complete?

Conventions - Did you use capital letters, end punctuation, and pretty good spelling? Did you invent spelling for words you don't know how to spell? Did you indent?



Audience - Who are you writing for? Who will be your reader? Are you using the right topic, tone of voice, and language for your reader?



writing skills that make your writing stupendous

Amplified Writing - Make a statement, then back it up with two or three other statements.

Boy, can my Auntie Jenna cook! She makes the most delicious red beans and rice you've ever tasted, and it's full of sausage.

Appositives - An appositive reidentifies a noun.

My Tae Kwan Do instructor, Mr. Mike Kapinski, has won every belt you can imagine.



Conclusions - A conclusion wraps up all the important statements in your paper and boils it down to one or two.

My life will never be the same because of a P.E. coach named Jerry DeLessio. He believed in me when no one else did.

Descriptive Writing - Descriptive writing helps your reader picture exactly what you are talking about.

The flamingos spread their fluffy, coral wings and chattered noisily, high in the top of the rippling palms.

Dialogue - It is interesting for the reader to know what your characters say.

Maggie said, "Charles got caught fighting on the bus. He's in trouble!" "You're kidding. What happened?" Curt questioned.



...writing skills

Personal Opinion - Everyone has a personal opinion, and your reader wants to hear yours.

In my opinion, kids don't have any business having homework on week nights OR ever.

Onomatopoeia - Who doesn't love sound effects?

Onomatopoeia puts the reader into the immediate action.

Crash! When I was trying to sneak in and get in bed without anyone noticing, I knocked over my sister's alarm clock.

Similes - Use the words "like" and "as" to make a point.

Elena cooks like a Food Network Star.

Our school bus is as sturdy as a battlefield tank.



Sizzling Vocabulary - Use great words to add sizzle!

Monica cringed when she had to stand there and listen to her boss yell and harangue her with criticism.

Specific Emotion Words - Your reader wants to know just how you feel or felt when something happened. Tell her!

Ty felt like someone punched him in the gut when they lost.

Specific Sensory Words - Adding some of the five senses adds authenticity to your writing.

I felt the breeze blow across my face and heard the rustle of the leaves in the tree. The rain was coming, and I could smell it.



...writing skills

Grabbers - Just like a "teaser" on television pulls your interest into the next show, a grabber pulls your reader in.

Little did I know, the summer I turned 10, that something so amazing, so magical, would happen and it would change my life forever.

Great Beginning - The beginning of your paper makes a lasting impression on your reader and introduces the topic.

Making ice cream sundaes for your family is not only easy, but it's great when you need to keep your sister from telling on you.

Hyperbole - Everyone likes to exaggerate every now and then. Hyperbole adds humor and voice to your writing.

We picked sweet, juicy blueberries that were the size of baseballs.

Idioms - Idioms are exaggerated sayings that make a point.

It's no skin off my nose if you chose not to study for the test.

Metaphors - Similar to idioms, metaphors compare two things in order to make a point.

When we tried to build a fort, we hit a snag.



Mini-Story - Everyone has a story of something that has happened to us. Think of your best ones and use them in your writing to add a personal touch.

I'll never forget the time a rusty nail taught me I should wear my sneakers when I'm playing down by the riverbed.



...writing skills

Strong Verbs - Strong verbs add punch to your writing.

I skyrocketed to the office to get help.

Supporting with Reasons and Details - Don't hold back.

If you learn to swim, it might save your life someday, or someone else's.

Takeaway Endings - A takeaway ending tells your reader what you learned or how your life changed.

I'll never criticize my grandmother again, not after what she did for me that summer.

Transitional Phrases - Try using great connecting phrases or whole sentences to pull your reader through your writing.

If you think that's funny, listen to what happened next.

Zingers - A zinger, which makes the reader feel, smile, or think, is a terrific way to end any writing.

PS: Fireworks are for WATCHING, not for playing with.

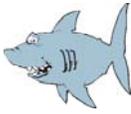
Voice - Don't try to sound like someone else. Let your own style and personality shine through your writing. Use humor, expressions, and pizzazz.

And so, dear readers, there you have it: another exciting episode in the life of Shanna, eight-year-old detective.



"As" Similes

As agile as a monkey
 As alike as two peas in a pod
 As big as a bus
 As big as an elephant
 As black as midnight
 As brave as a lion
 As bright as day
 As busy as a beaver
 As busy as a bee
 As clean as a whistle
 As clear as a bell
 As clear as crystal
 As clear as mud
 As cold as ice
 As cool as a cucumber
 As crazy as a bedbug
 As crooked as a dog's hind leg
 As cunning as a fox
 As cute as a button
 As dead as a doornail
 As delicate as a flower
 As different as night and day
 As dry as a bone
 As dull as dishwater
 As easy as A,B,C
 As easy as pie
 As fit as a fiddle
 As flat as a pancake
 As free as a bird
 As fresh as a daisy
 As gentle as a lamb
 As happy as a lark
 As happy as a pig in a mud puddle
 As hard as nails
 As hoarse as a crow
 As hungry as a bear



As hungry as a wolf
 As innocent as a lamb
 As large as life
 As light as a feather
 As light as air
 As mad as a hatter
 As mad as a hornet
 As neat as a pin
 As nutty as a fruitcake
 As old as the hills
 As pale as death
 As plain as day
 As pleased as punch
 As poor as a church mouse
 As poor as dirt
 As pretty as a picture
 As proud as a peacock
 As pure as the driven snow
 As quick as a wink
 As quick as lightning
 As right as rain
 As scarce as hen's teeth
 As sensitive as a flower
 As sharp as a tack
 As sharp as a razor
 As sick as a dog
 As silly as a goose
 As slippery as an eel
 As slow as molasses
 As slow as a snail
 As slow as a tortoise
 As smooth as silk
 As snug as a bug in a rug
 As solid as a rock
 As tight as a drum
 As ugly as a mud fence

"I like" Similes

acts like she's the teacher
 chatters like a monkey
 cooks like a chef
 cries like a baby
 cuts like a knife
 draws like an artist
 dresses like a model
 drives like a maniac
 drives like an old lady
 eats like a bird
 eats like a horse
 eyes like a hawk
 feels like velvet
 fits like a glove
 flies like a bird
 floats like a boat
 gossips like an old biddy
 grows like a weed
 irritates like sandpaper
 jumps like a frog
 keeps a secret like a vault
 know it like the back of your hand
 laughs like a hyena
 like finding a needle in a haystack
 looks like a giant
 love is like a red rose
 plays guitar like a rock star
 plays like an athlete



reads like a bookworm
 roars like a lion
 runs like a rocket
 runs like the wind
 searches like a bloodhound
 shimmers like a diamond
 sings like an angel
 sits around like a couch potato
 sleeps like a baby
 smells like a wet goat
 smells like money
 smells like rain
 smokes like a chimney
 smooth like silk
 snores like a buzz saw
 soars like an eagle
 sounds like trouble
 sparkles like fireworks
 spends money like it grows on trees
 stretches like a rubber band
 studies like a fiend
 swims like a fish
 talks like a parrot
 talks like a house of fire
 tastes like ambrosia
 works like a dog
 works like there's no tomorrow
 works like a horse

metaphors

Be careful whose toes you step on.
 Don't beat around the bush.
 Don't wait till the cows come home
 Get your ducks in a row.
 He had a heart of stone.
 She is the sunshine of my day.
 My mother is the light of my life.
 My little sister is a jumping bean.
 Now he's rolling in dough.
 Mom says I'm the apple of her eye.
 He's just a big old teddy bear.
 He is 24 karat gold.
 He will stab you in the back.
 He's burning the candle at both ends.
 He's such a motor mouth.
 Her ideas are over the top.
 I can be a headache sometimes.
 I gave her an earful.
 I got a slap on the wrist this time.
 I had a lot on my plate.
 I love her to death.
 I was a basket case.
 I was ticked off for sure.
 I was up the creek without a paddle.
 I'll get back on my feet soon.
 I'm at the end of my rope.
 I'm burned out.
 I'm fired up.
 I'm not in love with that idea.
 In one ear and out the other.



I've been running a rat race all day.
 It's raining cats and dogs.
 Let's play ball.
 Let's put our minds together.
 My father has the heart of a lion.
 My lips are sealed.
 Now that's a home run of an idea.
 Our car turned out to be a lemon.
 Put the pedal to the metal.
 She can kill you with kindness.
 She is a real live treasure
 She's a living doll.
 She's clueless.
 Take a stab at it.
 That bugs me.
 That just blows me away.
 That's on the cutting edge.
 The ball's in your court.
 This will knock your socks off.
 Watch your back.
 We hit the ground running.
 We're swamped today.
 Well that's a no-brainer
 Well, join the club.
 You do the math.
 You need to raise the bar.
 You think outside of the box.
 You're in deep trouble.
 You're in over your head.
 You're missing a piece of the puzzle.

idioms

Idioms are colorful expressions we use in our speech and our writing. They add an element of fun for the reader. Idioms and metaphors are very similar.

Idioms for "working hard"

burning the midnight oil
 burning the candle at both ends
 putting his back into it
 going full speed ahead
 making hay while the sun shines



Idioms for "exceptionally good"

7th heaven
 a little piece of heaven
 a little slice of wonderful
 all that and a bag of chips
 apple of my eye
 beyond imagination
 beyond your wildest dreams
 crackerjack
 creme de la creme
 divine
 heavenly
 off the chain
 off the charts

on cloud 9
 out of this world
 the absolute be all and end all
 the be all and the end all
 the bee's knees
 the cat's meow
 the cat's pajamas
 the genuine article
 the gold standard
 the mack daddy
 the real deal
 the top of the world
 world class



...idioms

Idioms for "exceptionally terrible"

not pretty
 out of the frying pan into the fire
 pretty ugly
 something you wouldn't wish on your worst enemy
 that spells trouble
 the last straw
 the straw that broke the camel's back
 train wreck
 up the creek without a paddle
 you're asking for it
 you're asking for trouble
 you're barking up the wrong tree
 you're in deep water
 you're in hot water
 you're in the dog house
 you're standing on my last nerve
 you're toast
 your goose is cooked



Idioms for "easy"

a snap
 as simple as pie
 easy breezy
 like falling off a log
 like taking candy from a baby
 piece of cake



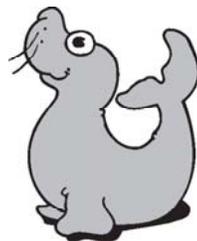
Transitional Phrases & Sentences

After all...
 After what seemed like a long time...
 And guess what?
 At that point...
 At the same time...
 Because of this...
 But at the same time...
 Come with me and I'll show you...
 First of all...
 For instance...
 For that reason...
 Here's the best part.
 Here's the thing.
 Hold on. It gets better!
 I especially like...
 I must tell you...
 I still have nightmares about what happened next.
 I wish I had more time to tell you about...
 I'd like to bring my explanation to an end by saying...
 If you think that's bad, it gets worse.
 If you think that's scary, wait till you hear...
 In any case...
 In fact...
 In other words...



...Transitional Phrases & Sentences

In the first place...
 In the meantime...
 Just then...
 Just when I thought it couldn't get any worse...
 Later on...
 Let me begin.
 Let me end my story by saying...
 Let me give you an example.
 Let me remind you...
 Let me sum up my thoughts by saying...
 Let's start at the beginning.
 Moving on...
 My favorite part is...
 My story wouldn't be complete if I didn't tell you about...
 Never again will I...
 Now comes the part that got me into trouble.
 Now that we've looked at that, let's move on to...
 Now you see ...
 Oh, and another thing...
 On the other hand...
 Once that happened...
 Once you complete that step...
 Right after that...
 Right away...
 Sooner or later...



...Transitional Phrases & Sentences

Step into my world and I'll tell you...
 The first step is a piece of cake.
 The first thing that happened was...
 The lesson I learned is...
 The most important thing is...
 The next thing that happened knocked my socks off.
 The second step is a doozie.
 The thing I hate about it is...
 This happened because...
 This may be true, but...
 This next part is a doozie!
 To begin with...
 To put it a different way...
 To put it differently...
 Until now...
 Until then...
 What happened next still gives me the willies!
 When all was said and done...
 When I found out the truth...
 When I realized what had actually happened...
 When she realized I was telling the truth...
 When we finally got home...
 When you hear what happened...
 You need to know that...
 You won't believe what happened next.



dialogue

Dialogue means conversation. You can talk to yourself, to another person, or to a whole group. When it comes to writing, dialogue makes your writing much more interesting.

When you write dialogue, you need to put quotation marks before and after. That lets the reader know that someone is talking. You can use the word, "said," and a person's name or with an adverb, to describe how he said it. You can use a strong verb, which takes the place of "said." Or, you can let the dialogue stand on its own without any tags.

"I'll help you with your homework," Tom said.
Shandria said, "That would be awesome."

said



"Come over today after school," Caleb begged.
"Okay," Marco answered.

strong verbs

"Brian, settle down," Mrs. Ranson said sternly.
"Yes, ma'am," Brian said quietly.

adverb

"Want to ride skateboards?"
"Sure! Let's go."

no tags

writing to a prompt

Many times young writers are asked to write to a prompt. A prompt is usually written in the form of instructions:

Life has it's embarrassing moments! Think of a time you did something really embarrassing. Now write a personal narrative about your embarrassing moment.



1. Read the prompt two or three times. You'd be amazed at how many writers don't do this and get confused. Read!

2. Consider what the prompt is asking you to write: A personal narrative? A creative narrative? An expository or persuasive piece?

3. Don't copy the prompt word for word. Instead, refer to the prompt in the beginning by using a few key words.

creative license

Being able to write well is one of the greatest keys to a successful life. Writing doesn't have to be drudgery! Use your imagination and tap into your creative side. Just to be sure you feel free to do just that, here is your very own official "creative license."

CREATIVE LICENSE

print your name

Has been given permission to make things up, stretch the truth, tell big whoppers, and spin yarns in order to make his/her writing more creative.



writer's checklist

- Name on Paper
- Date on Paper
- Grabber
- Beginning that Introduces the Prompt or Topic
- Descriptive Language
- Dialogue
- Specific Writing Skills (pp. 27-30)
- Transitional Phrases and Sentences
- Sentences Start Differently
- Some Sentences are short and Some are Long
- Sizzling Vocabulary Words
- Supporting Details & Reasons (Expository and Persuasive)
 - samples, examples, reasons, mini-story, testimony, quote, facts, comparison, interview
- Sequencing and Passing of Time (Narrative)
- Conclusion
- Takeaway Ending
- Zinger
- Revised
- Edited Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar
- Read it Aloud
- Shared it With Someone Else





first aid questions for writers

Does the beginning grab or hook the reader's attention?

Are there any unanswered questions? Did I answer WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, AND HOW?

Can I substitute a sizzling word for a boring word?



Can I add more information to support a thought or idea?

Is there a statement that needs more explanation with reasons, details, or examples?

Do my readers need more description to be able to picture what I'm writing about?

Do most of my sentences start with different beginnings?

Is there a fresher, more interesting way to express myself?

Did I use similes, metaphors, strong verbs, specific emotion words, sensory words, onomatopoeia, or dialogue to make my writing colorful and enjoyable for my readers?

Does every sentence focus on the topic?

Did I use transitional phrases between thoughts and ideas?

Does the ending bring this piece to a smooth finish?



A word about Spelling

Don't get uptight about spelling. Being a good speller doesn't make you a good writer. Writing with description and passion makes you a good writer. You can always fix spelling later.

It is better to GUESS at the spelling of a creative, sizzling word than to use a simple, boring word that you are sure you can spell. Don't be afraid to take risks. Use those strong words!



The most important thing is for you to get your thoughts down on paper. Ask yourself, "What is the word that REALLY expresses what I want to say?" Even if you can't spell it, USE IT! When you finish, You can always look up words later to check on spelling.



commonly misspelled words

a lot	calendar	February
a while	camouflage	first
acceptable	cantaloupe	for
accidental	carry	four
across	category	friend
again	cheese	government
always	close	grammar
animal	clothes	grateful
argument	committed	guarantee
ate	conscience	guess
beautiful	could	hear
because	definite	height
begin	disappear	here
being	disappointment	high
believe	discipline	humorous
bicycle	don't	immediate
biscuit	eight	it's
bring	embarrass	its
broccoli	embarrassing	jewelry
business	every	knowledge
buy	example	library
by	experience	license



...commonly misspelled words

lightning	remember	through
loose	restaurant	to
lose	rhyme	together
ma'am	rhythm	tomorrow
many	right	too
medieval	said	twelfth
might	salary	two
misspell	sandwich	until
mosquito	school	vacuum
much	scissors	weather
neighbor	second	Wednesday
no one	separate	weird
onomatopoeia	should	when
people	sight	which
picture	some	without
pleasant	something	woman
principal	story	women
pronunciation	their	won't
receipt	there	would
receive	they're	write
recipe	thought	yesterday
religious	threw	you'll

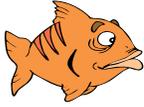




Sizzl ing Vocabul ary

onomat opoeia

bam
bang
boink
burp
clang
clink
crack
crash
drip
gurgle
kablam
kaboom
smack
splash
tinkle
varoom
wheeee
whir
whoosh
zoom



"said"

agreed
argued
asked
begged
cried
demanded
exclaimed
interrupted
moaned
mocked
muttered
questioned
reminded
scolded
screamed
screeched
shouted
threatened
whispered
yelled



...Sizzl ing Vocabul ary

ugly

disgusting
disgusting looking
dog-face
dowdy
frumpy
grotesque
gruesome
hard on the eyes
hideous
homely
loathsome
mousy
mud ugly
plain
repulsive
revolting
skank
unappealing
unattractive
unsightly
vile
wretched



pretty

adorable
attractive
beautiful
breathtaking
charming
cute
dazzling
drop-dead
gorgeous
enchanted
exquisite
eye-candy
eye-catching
fetching
foxy
good-looking
gorgeous
handsome
lovely
radiant
striking
stunning



...Sizzl ing Vocabul ary

Florida

alligator
beaches
Blue Angels
Disney World
Everglades
hurricane
Lake Okeechobee
manatee
mockingbird
orange juice
panther
sandhill crane
Seminoles
St. Augustine
sunshine
Tallahassee
tourists



Love (verb)

admire
adore
am crazy about
am devoted to
am fond of
am nuts about
care for
cherish
flip over
go ape over
hold in esteem
idolize
prize
think highly of
treasure
value
worship



...Sizzl ing Vocabul ary

family member s

ancestors
aunt/uncle
brother/sister
brother-in-law
cousin
forefathers
grandfather
grandma/grandpa
grandmother
great grandma
great grandpa
mom/dad
mommy/daddy
mother/father
niece/nephew
sister-in-law
stepfather
stepmother



weat her

blue skies
blizzard
breezy
clear
cloudy
drizzling
foggy
gloomy
gorgeous
hurricane
misting
pouring
raining cats & dogs
snowy
sunny
tornado
torrential downpour
windy



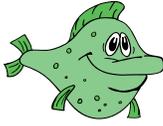
51



...Sizzling Vocabulary

big

astronomical
 behemoth
 colossal
 elephantine
 enormous
 giant
 gigantic
 herculean
 hippopotamic
 huge
 humongous
 immense
 jumbo
 king size
 large
 mammoth
 massive
 monster
 monstrous
 mountainous
 titanic
 vast
 whopping

**small**

dinky
 dwarf
 eensy weensy
 itsy bitsy
 itty bitty
 Lilliputian
 little
 microscopic
 miniature
 miniscule
 minute
 pee wee
 petite
 pint-size
 pocket-size
 puny
 shrimp
 teeny
 teeny-weeny
 tiny
 wee
 weensy



52



...Sizzling Vocabulary

good

awesome
 delicious
 delightful
 enjoyable
 excellent
 exceptional
 extraordinary
 fabulous
 fantastic
 first-rate
 marvelous
 phenomenal
 stupendous
 super
 superb
 superlative
 terrific
 the best ever
 to die for
 wonderful
 wondrous

**bad**

appalling
 atrocious
 awful
 catastrophic
 disgusting
 dreadful
 evil
 foul
 frightful
 horrendous
 horrible
 horrific
 horrifying
 nasty
 naughty
 no good
 rotten
 shocking
 terrible
 terrifying
 wicked



53



...Sizzling Vocabulary

hot

blazing
 blistering
 boiling
 broiling
 burning
 fiery
 scalding
 scorching
 searing
 sizzling
 spicy
 steamy
 stifling
 suffocating
 sultry
 sweltering

**cold**

arctic
 bitter
 bone-chilling
 brisk
 chilly
 cool
 freezing
 frigid
 frosty
 frozen
 icy
 like ice
 nippy
 sub-zero
 teeth-chattering
 wintry



54



...Sizzling Vocabulary

"up" emotions

appreciated
 elated
 excited
 exhilarated
 included
 joyful
 joyous
 jubilant
 loved
 noticed
 overjoyed
 proud
 relieved
 safe
 special
 successful

"down" emotions

ashamed
 dejected
 depressed
 disrespected
 embarrassed
 excluded
 frustrated
 guilty
 lonely
 lost
 neglected
 rejected
 sad
 shameful
 shocked
 worthless





55

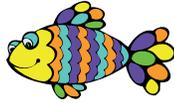
...Sizzling Vocabulary

**go fast**

blitz
burn rubber
careen
fly
hurtle
jet
peel out
race
rip
rocket
scratch off
skyrocket
speed
take off
whiz
whoosh
zip
zoom

go slow

as slow as molasses
in January
barely moving
crawl
creep
edge
inch
meander
move at a snail's
pace
move in slow motion
shuffle
sidle
skulk
slink
stroll leisurely
tip toe
unhurried



56

...Sizzling Vocabulary

**tasty**

a little slice of
heaven
angel food
appetizing
delectable
delicious
divine
finger-lickin'-good
flavorful
heavenly
luscious
melt-in-your-mouth
mouthwatering
savory
scrumptious
succulent
to-die-for
yummy

**yucky**

bitter
disagreeable
dreadful
foul
gross
indigestible
inedible
nasty
putrid
rank
repulsive
revolting
rotten
sour
unpalatable
unpleasant
unsavory
wretched



57

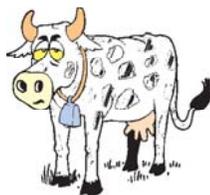
...Sizzling Vocabulary

**interesting**

absorbing
appealing
attention-grabbing
attractive
captivating
curious
enthralling
exciting
extraordinary
fascinating
intriguing
mesmerizing
noteworthy
remarkable
spellbinding
stimulating
thought-provoking

boring

dreary
dull
humdrum
lackluster
mind-numbing
monotonous
repetitive
tedious
tiresome
unexciting
uninspiring
uninteresting
wearisome



58

...Sizzling Vocabulary

**strong**

beefy
brawny
burly
heavy-duty
intense
made to last
muscular
strapping
sturdy
tough
well-built

weak

anemic
delicate
drained
exhausted
faint
feeble
flimsy
frail
helpless
Minnie Mouse
puny
scrawny





59



...Sizzl ing Vocabul ary

happy

appreciative

beside herself

blissful

cheerful

content

delighted

ecstatic

elated

glad

joyful

on cloud nine

over the moon

overjoyed

pleased

satisfied

thankful

thrilled

**sad**

dejected

depressed

desolate

despondent

down

feeling blue

feeling like Eeyore

forlorn

gloomy

heartbroken

melancholy

miserable

sorrowful

under a black

cloud

woeful

wretched



60



...Sizzl ing Vocabul ary

irritating

aggravating

annoying

bothersome

driving me crazy

driving me up

the wall

exasperating

frustrating

getting on my

nerves

grating

infuriating

maddening

making me nuts

provoking

angry

annoyed

blow my stack

blow my top

boiling over

cross

disgusted

enraged

flip my lid

fuming

furious

hacked off

mad

outraged

seething

steaming

ticked off



61



...Sizzl ing Vocabul ary

blue

aqua

azure

baby blue

cerulean

cobalt

cornflower

denim

electric

indigo

midnight

navy

ocean

periwinkle

royal

sapphire

sky

wedgewood

**green**

army

asparagus

chartreuse

emerald

fern

forest

hunter

jade

jungle

lime

moss

olive

pea

pine

pistachio

sea

shamrock



62



...Sizzl ing Vocabul ary

orange

amber

apricot

carrot

coral

curry

fluorescent

ginger

marigold

peach

pumpkin

rust

sunset

tangerine

purple

aubergine

eggplant

heliotrope

grape

lavendar

lilac

magenta

mulberry

orchid

pansy

raspberry

royal

violet



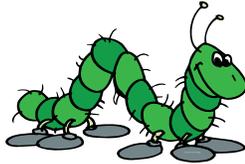
63 ...Sizzling Vocabulary

brown

auburn
beige
bronze
burnt sienna
burnt umber
caramel
chestnut
chocolate
cinnamon
coffee
mahogany
maple
mocha
nutmeg
russet
tan
toffee

black

ash
charcoal
coal
ebony
inky
licorice
midnight
negrón
pitch
raven
tar



64 ...Sizzling Vocabulary

white

alabaster
bone
cloud
cream
creamy
ecru
ghostly
iridescent
ivory
linen
manila
milky
off
pearl
snow
stark
vanilla

crazy mixed up colors

barber pole
camouflage
dalmatian
fluorescent
Hawaiian
hologram
kaleidoscope
khaki
leopard
metallic
mirror
mother-of-pearl
peppermint
rainbow
tie-dye
tutti frutti
zebra



65 ...Sizzling Vocabulary

red

brick
burgundy
candy apple
red
cherry
cranberry
fire engine
red
fuchsia
garnet
maroon
paprika
pink
rose
ruby
rust
scarlet
strawberry
watermelon

yellow

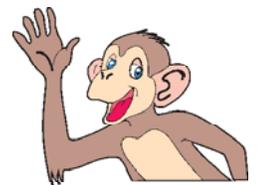
blonde
butter
buttercream
egg yolk yellow
gold
golden
goldenrod
jaundice
lemon
neon
school bus yellow
sunflower
sunny



66

Avoid Tacky Expressions

Hi. My name is ...
I'm going to tell you a story about...
Do you want me to tell you about...
My three main reasons are...
The first reason is...
Thirdly...
Finally...
I'm going to write about...
I hope you liked my story.
Bye, gotta go now.
The End
So long for now...
See you later...
My third reason is...
And that's the end of my story.
And I woke up and it was all a dream.
I can't think of anything else to say so...
Don't you think I wrote a good story?
Do you have a story you want to tell me?
Check here if you liked my story.
Do you have a favorite pet? Well, I do. It's...
My teacher said I have to write about...



content and creativity

The two most important things we strive for as writers is CONTENT and CREATIVITY.

Content means
what you have to say.



If you want your writing to be well-received, you've got to have a story, or some information, or something important to say.

Creativity means how beautifully you write what you want to say.

You can add beauty to your writing with well-written sentences, writing skills, sizzling vocabulary, and passion.



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voice

Every writer has a unique "voice." Voice means the way we express ourselves, our written personality. Other people can recognize our writing, sometimes, just by the way we sound on paper.

When you are writing, don't try to sound like someone else. Be yourself. Don't try to sound formal. Be yourself. Don't try to use words you never use when you're speaking. Be yourself.

Have you caught on, yet? Let your own voice shine through your writing. "Talk" to your reader as if you could see him when you are writing. Don't be obnoxious, by all means, but let your personality come through your writing.

These things help you put voice into your writing:

- expressions you normally use
- passion
- mini-stories
- examples
- a familiar tone



YOUNG WRITER'S SURVIVAL KIT



MELISSA FORNEY