

Launching & Beyond: More Mini Lessons to spark writing ideas

IF your students need more support with generating ideas for writing or you want to strengthen the notebook work your students are doing, THEN you might want to lean on this suggested list of mini lessons to spark writing ideas throughout the year.

Consider this list as a menu of possibilities, selecting only the teaching points that meet the needs of your students. You may use your assessment data, observations, and other information to decide on a plan that is tailored to the needs of your class. These teaching points may be used as whole-group mini lessons, mid-workshop teach points, or to support conferences and small-group work. You need not use every teaching point. Also, you may use the teaching points you have selected in any order and at any time throughout the year, according to need.

Launching & Beyond

STORYTELLING:
**YOU TELL A STORY, LET
KIDS TELL THEIR
STORIES, AND THEN HAVE
THEM START TO WRITE**

Re-reading to keep
writing:
Once kids have a few
entries, show them how
to reread what they have
to get new ideas

Starting with little, nearby things:
Sometimes just looking around the
room can get you started. Let the
things around you inspire your ideas.

Freewriting:
Model freewriting, then
have students try it. Kids
write for 5-7 minutes,
letting whatever comes
to mind find its way to
paper.

WRITING WITH OUR EARS:
**IMAGINE YOU HAVE ONLY YOUR
EARS TO RECORD THE WORLD
AROUND YOU. WRITE WITH
JUST YOUR EARS.**

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LISTING:
**MODEL LISTING AROUND A
TOPIC OR IDEA, AND THEN HAVE
KIDS TRY IT.**

Reaching into memory:
Reach into your memory
and write what comes
to mind. Think of people,
places, and moments
from your life. Let your
past tell a story.

Drawing:
**Sometimes drawing or
writing from a picture
or an image can spark
ideas for writing.**

Bumping off Literature:
**Often the things we read inspire
our thinking and cause us to react
or question. Offer students a
variety of texts to choose from,
allowing them time to read and
bump off literature.**

Teach students how to
ask questions about
what they have
already written:
Then these questions
can lead to other
entries. "Why was this
important? What do I
remember from that
moment?"