

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?"