

Writing ideas for text types

Argument

Should school students wear school uniform?

Should junk food be sold at school?

Should people be allowed to own guns?

Explanation

My invention

My Science Experiment

My marvelous machine

What can you do with a piece of junk?

Narrative

1. An underwater discovery

You have been underwater diving and you have discovered the wreck of a sunken boat. It looks as if it has been there for years. Write a story about this boat.

Who do you think it belonged to?

How did it get here?

How long ago?

Who were the people on board?

What happened to them?

2. Footprints in the sand

You are at the beach and you see some footprints in the sand.

Write a story about the footprints.

Who was here?

Where were they going?

What happened to them?

Will they come back this way?

3. Marooned

If your boat sank just off an uninhabited island and you managed to swim ashore, what would you try to take with you? You are only allowed to take three things with you. Consider them carefully.

Explain why you chose these three items.

Write about your experience.

What can you eat?

Where would you find water?

How can you get shelter?

Are there any dangerous animals?

How can you survive?

How will you get back home?

4. Storm approaching

“Warning!!! Warning!!!

There's a big storm coming. Would everyone please..."

If you heard this warning...

How would you feel?

What might happen?

What would you do?

Why would you do this?

Who would you look out for?

5. The fire

A fire started when two boys were playing with matches. Think about these questions then write a story.

Don't just write answers to the questions. Make it interesting.

Where were the boys when the fire started?

What happened next?

How did they get help?

How was the fire put out?

What happened to the boys?

What lesson did they learn?

6. More story ideas for a Narrative

- The storm
- The secret cave
- The treasure map
- Crash!
- Lost in the bush

Procedure

1. A new sport

You are going to invent a new sport that can be played on the sand.

Give the sport a name.

What equipment do you need?

How many can play?

What is the aim of the game? (Who wins?)

What are the rules?

2. My Recipe

You are making a very special sandwich for lunch. Write down the recipe for someone who has never made it before. Write all the steps, including how to spread the bread.

a) Ingredients:

b) Method:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. etc

Draw pictures to help explain.

3. The model car

Imagine that you are making a model car, large enough to sit in. It can move along when someone pushes you.

Make a list of the materials you would need.

Write some step by step instructions on how to make your car.

4. More ideas for writing a Procedure

- How to make a paper aeroplane
- How to make a birthday cake
- How to play hand ball
- My science experiment

A Report

1. Cats

Cats can be different colours. They can be.....

Cats like to sleep.....

Cats like to catch.....

Cats like to eat.....

I like cats because.....

2. Hands

Trace around your hand. Write inside the shape all the things you can do with your hands, (brainstorming).

e.g. make something; pat a cat.

Now write in full sentences:

What can you do with your hands?

What do your hands look like?

When do your hands get dirty?

Why are your hands important?

Who can do clever things with their hands?

3. How animals move

Some words to use:

gallop soar walk fly sway hover skim jump dart hop drift wriggle flutter dive float glide leap skip
--

Make 6 interesting sentences about the way animals move. Use some of the words above. Choose any animals you like. Describe how they move.

For example:

Horses can gallop like the wind.

Fish can dart swiftly in the shallow water.

4. More ideas for Reports

My hobby
Foods I like
Things I like
Things I like to do
Volcanoes
Amphibians
Our solar system

Recount

1. A special ride

Have you ever a ride that was a bit unusual?

Maybe on...

A boat
A tractor
A horse

Or maybe you would like to have a special ride in..

A helicopter
A submarine
A space rocket

Write about your experience. It does not have to be true.

2. The Football Match

Some words to use:

forward pass won lost penalty score team goal crowd post knock try kick trophy referee coach tackle boots whistle
--

Write a story about a football match. It must be a match that has already been played.

3. Underwater adventure

Some words to use:

beautiful scuba diving flippers starfish colourful seaweed tropical fish coral reef currents air tank
--

Write a story about diving underwater.

Where did this story take place?

When did this story take place?

Who were you diving with?

What equipment did you have?

What did you hope to see?

What did you see?

What problem arose?

What happened next?

4. When I was a baby

Think about these questions.

When were you born?
How heavy were you?
Did you have any hair?
Did you have any teeth?
Who looked after you?
Where did you sleep?
What sounds did you make?
What food did you have?
How did you learn to talk?
What toys did you play with?
What mischief did you get into?
Who helped you to walk?

Now write a story about yourself. Make it interesting. Make it funny if you like. Don't just answer the questions.

5. More ideas for a Recount

Diaries
Going on an African safari
My visit to the museum
A day in the life of a nurse
If I lived in the snow
My holiday
My best year at school
Exploring with Captain Cook

Poetry

1. Sound Poems

Example: The Supermarket

Trolleys banging,
Mammies talking,
Music playing,
Babies crying,
Registers ringing,
I want to go home.

2. Acrostics

Write the title vertically on the left-hand side of the page, each letter represents a word and can then be added to form a sentence. For younger children, you can begin by using their name, family, pets, animals, birds, etc. Develop the theme for older children by using feeling/emotions or other abstract ideas.

Example: Granny

Gardening all of the time
Rubs my knee when I fall
And makes yummy food
Never yells at me,
Never complains,
Yes I love my granny.

3. Rhyming Couplets

Children first need a lot of practice with rhyming words, e.g. songs and nursery rhymes. It is important to brainstorm rhyming words with the children before you begin e.g. bear, there, where, lair, mare, hair, chair, glare, pear, pair, stair, tear, wear etc

Examples:

Humpty Dumpty went to the shop
To buy himself a ...lollipop

A fat cat
Sat on a mat

I like jam
With a piece of ham

4. Alphabet Poems

Ask children to think of adjectives, going from a-z to describe something

Example: The teacher's cat

The teacher's cat is an awful cat
The teacher's cat is a beautiful cat
The teacher's cat is a creepy cat etc.

This game can also be played using the names of the pupils, e.g.

My name is Debra and I like doughnuts
My name is Tom and I hate tomatoes etc.

5. Free Poems

It is important that children remember that poems don't always have to rhyme in order to be a poem

I Like Nature
Flowers come with nature.
Trees come with nature.
We come with nature.

6. Colour Poems

Colour poems can be written and developed right through the school. When writing colour poems with junior classes just repeat the colour at the beginning of each sentence. Get the children to brainstorm things that are this colour e.g.

Black
Black is my cat
Black is burnt wood
Black is the night sky

7. Adjective Poems

In this instance, we repeat the title three times on the first and last lines of the poem and at the end of each line in the poem.

Sailing
Sailing, sailing, sailing
Silently sailing,
Swiftly sailing,
Surely sailing
Sailing, sailing, sailing

8. Limericks

In limericks line one, two and five rhymes, and line three and four rhymes.

In a castle that had a deep moat
Lived a chicken a duck and a goat.
They wanted to go out
And wander about
But they didn't have a boat.

Writing Assessment

Does the student:

- Know how to write in a given text-type?
- Demonstrate a sense of purpose in writing a piece.
- Use appropriate punctuation
- Use appropriate tense
- Show a depth of knowledge of content
- Order the content logically. time sequence, cause and effect
- Present correct spelling