

**Elementary**

# Independent Writing Prompts

*Indiana*  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Working Together for Student Success*

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# Tips for Using Writing Prompts

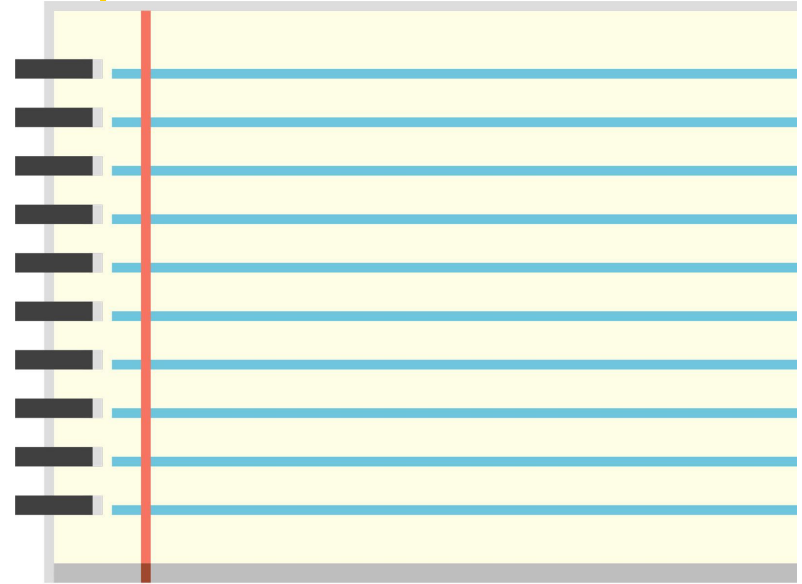
Writing prompts are often used as part of reading assignments or part of writing time. A student may encounter a prompt following a read aloud, on a classroom test, or most commonly, on a standardized test.

We encourage these as opportunities for students to practice coming up with an idea, organizing supporting details, and meeting grade level grammar and mechanics expectations. Time limits can be anywhere from 20-45 minutes.



# Elements to Include

1. Illustration→ have your child draw a picture to match their thinking.
2. Writing that relates to the prompt.
3. Have your student reread their writing for grammar. First read silently then aloud. Allow them to stop and make changes.
4. Big changes? Rewrite or retype for a final copy.
5. Read the writing aloud to family member including pets!

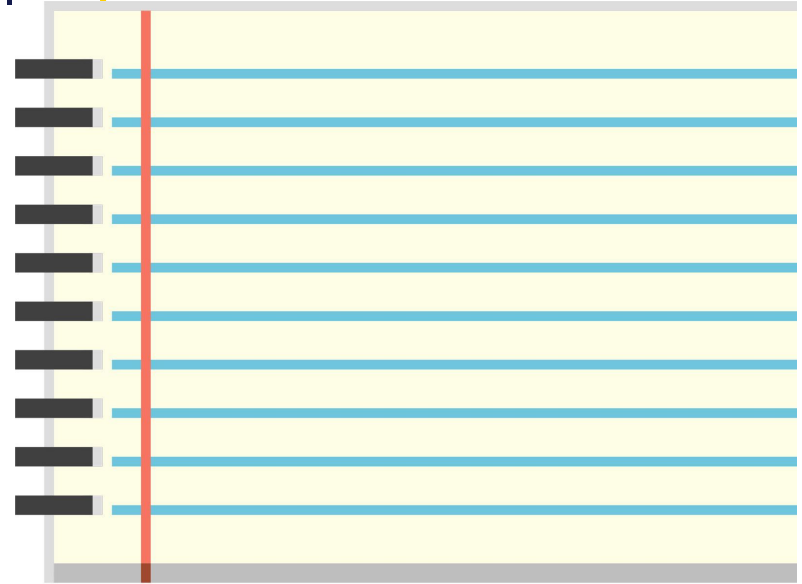


# Paper Choice

Paper- preferable lined, but any paper will work.

Students may write with a pencil, pen, or preferred writing tool. The child and adult must be able to read the writing.

Practice typing using an onscreen or physical keyboard. Both are great!

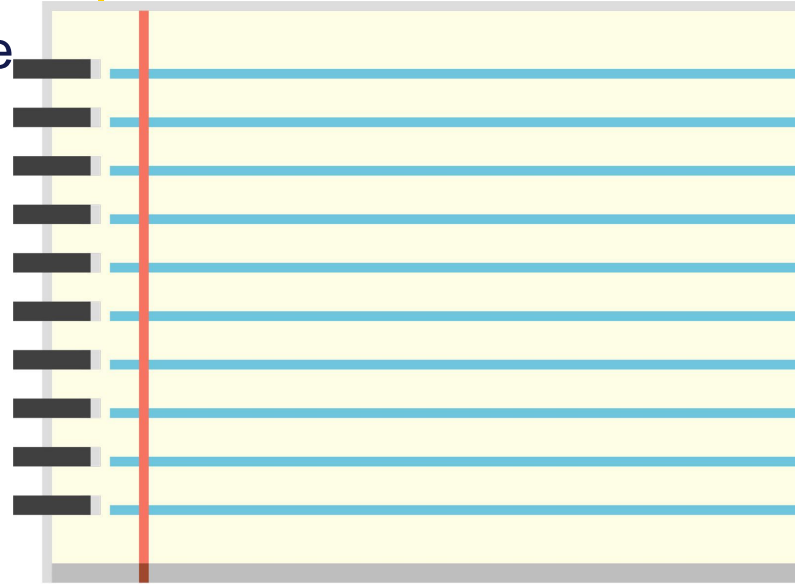


# Writing Prompts

Below are prompts written for elementary students in kindergarten through 6th grade

Some prompts contain ways to increase or decrease the difficulty of the prompt.

Students may choose to include their illustrations below the prompt or on a separate sheet of paper.



# Support

Click the following link for support understanding the different types of writing.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/18k2GDC5YrCPBIEf8nxHYEc4Vji8Cu3z86teZEhcfZ08/edit?usp=sharing>



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# Prompts

I get scared when \_\_\_\_\_.

Something that makes me feel better is

\_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Extra Challenge: Describe how your body feels and you react when you think of something that scares you.



# Prompts

Who is the funniest member of your family and why?

Extra Challenge: Describe a specific time or memory when your family laughed.





# Prompts

Write a friendly letter to President Washington. Ask him, “what was it like to be the first president?”

Make sure to format your letter including a signature.

Write a friendly letter to your principal. Ask them, “what is it like to be the leader of the school?”

Make sure to format your letter including a signature.



# Prompts

Write about your best friend, how you met, and why you are friends.



# Prompts

Describe your favorite animal and why? Can you draw a detailed picture of your favorite animal?

Extra Challenge: Describe your favorite animal, why, and details about the habitat the animal lives in.



# Prompts

If you had a pet elephant, what are three things you would like to do?

Extra Challenge: Write an additional story about your pet elephant that uses all three things you would like to do with your elephant.



# Prompts

Use these words in a story: *scared, angry, Sunday, bugs.*

Extra Practice: Use these four words in sentences.

Extra Challenge: Use each word at least five times in your story.



# Prompts

Describe the hottest day you can remember.

Extra Practice: What makes a day hot?

Extra Challenge: What are things you do when it is hot outside?

What could you do to cool down if there is not air conditioning?



# Prompts

What would happen if your teacher forgot to wear shoes to school?

Extra Practice: What would you do if you forgot to wear shoes to school?

Extra Challenge: How would your school routine be different if your teacher forgot to wear shoes to school?



# Prompts

Describe five reasons why going to school is important.

Extra Practice: What are five things that happen at school?

Extra Challenge: Provide five arguments and supporting details as to why attending school is important.





# Works Cited

All prompts were taken from:

<https://www.literacyideas.com/reading-activities-for-any-book>

<http://www.uniqueteachingresources.com/creative-writing-prompts.html>

[https://www.journalbuddies.com/journal\\_prompts\\_journal\\_topics/elementary-writing-prompts/](https://www.journalbuddies.com/journal_prompts_journal_topics/elementary-writing-prompts/)

<https://www.thoughtco.com/quick-writing-prompts-p2-2081846>



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