

Day one of writing prompts: LEARNING HOW TO EXPAND YOUR FREE WRITE

45-60 minutes long

5 min. Give picture #1 and have them freewrite. (I like to choose a surreal image for this one)

5 min. Share in groups.

5 min. In groups, have them come up with alternative stories to write about the picture.

10 min. Have groups share their best with you, make a long list on the board.

Examples:

- straight description of the picture in detail
- story of the picture playing out (objective 3rd point of view)
- story of the picture playing out from a person in the picture (1st/2nd point of view)
- story of the picture playing out from an object in the picture
- story about the artist creating the picture
- story about someone observing the artist creating the picture
- story about someone viewing the picture for the first time
- story about someone who loves/hates the picture
- fantasy/surreal story about the picture
- poem inspired by or about the picture
- song inspired by or about the picture

5 min. Share a different picture, picture #2. Have them write a pure description for this. (I like to use a beautiful environment image for this one because they'll write multiple stories.)

5 min. Stop their first writing of picture #2. Now, still with picture #2 have them write one of the alternative methods on the board (either you pick one and circle it for them to use, or let them choose their own)

5 min. Stop their second writing of picture #2. Now, still with picture #2 have them write a third one of the alternative methods on the board.

By the end, they should have three alternative stories for the same picture, picture #2.

5 min. Reflect on the different writing they just did for picture #2. Which did they like best and why? Which was the most standard/unique? Which would they like to continue writing on and why?

If need more time to fill:

- Share their favorite quick write for picture #2 with their groups.
- Have students share their favorite write of the day with the whole class.
- Have students suggest the strangest/weirdest/most unique prompt they can think of relating to the pictures (picture #1 or picture #2, suggestions must be rated PG for school)
- Have them do an alternative writing for picture #1
- Have students reflect on interesting perspectives to do free writes with when they hear a song or watch a video. What could they write about besides the "typical" free write responses?