



Creative Writing Prompts Activity

A writing prompt is an idea that jumpstarts the writing process.

The prompt can be a short sentence, a paragraph, or even a picture, but the purpose is the same — to ignite your creativity so you'll begin writing.

For my purposes, I often use what I call “Wheel-of-Fortune” categories to start that process. Things like Around the House, Characters, TV, Places, People, On the Map, Phrases, Things, Title, etc. for example.

Have each person that is participating, write down three examples of one of the prompts above. Place all three in a basket. Once each person has completed that step, repeat the process using a different prompt and a different basket.

Once all prompts have been written and are divided into two different baskets, each person takes a turn randomly selecting a prompt from each basket. Ideally, they should not select one of their own.

Once they have two prompts, one from each category, they can begin the writing process. It is encouraged that they spread out, get comfortable and focus on writing a story using the two prompts they selected. They should know ahead of time that their story will be shared as a group once writing time has expired.

I suggest allotting anywhere from 20-30 minutes for the writing to take place. Usually, less time for a younger group and more time for older groups is a good idea.

Once the writing time is concluded, each person comes back to the whole group and each person takes a turn sharing his/her story with the rest of the group. A fun game to play is for the group to try and guess what the two prompts were once the person finishes reading their story aloud.

It is important to provide positive feedback to each person who reads the story that they wrote. This exercise teaches creative thinking, planning, self-regulating, public speaking and good listening skills.

