

## Ideas for writing

Sometimes in writing we need to work on big tasks, such as writing a story, or a newspaper article, and having the stamina and enthusiasm to keep going until the end. Other times we want to focus on the smaller details than can really help our writing shine, such as spelling, punctuation and details of grammar. In the table below there are a number of options for both.

<p><b>Free writing - fiction</b></p> <p>The best way to improve writing is to do lots of it. This helps to develop stamina, and trying out different genres of writing is really beneficial. It can be hard to know where to start, so if you're stuck for inspiration, try:</p> <p><u>The Literacy Shed</u>. There are lots of videos on this site that can help inspire your writing. You could <b>retell</b> a story you've watched; you could write a <b>sequel</b> (what happened next?); you could write a <b>prequel</b> (what happened before). Under the videos there are lots of questions and ideas for teachers, and you could use these too.</p> <p>If you are finding it hard to get hold of reading material, there are some book extracts on the webpage which your child could read (or listen to you read) and then do one of these tasks.</p>	<p><b>Free writing – poetry</b></p> <p>A good way to start with this is to take a poem you like, and try to change it bit by bit. Try different words or patterns and see if it makes a difference.</p> <p>You can also try a 2 minute write, where you just write nonstop for two minutes – the only rule is that you have to keep writing whatever comes into your head. Sometimes poems pop out of these little exercises and can inspire you to go further</p>	<p><b>Free writing – persuasive</b></p> <p>You may have really strong feelings about a particular topic, such as animal welfare, or local libraries.</p> <p>Try thinking about why you think it's important, and how you could <b>persuade</b> other people to agree with you. You can think about whether you would write a letter, or a script for a film, or a poster for a train station, for example.</p>
<p><b>Free writing – information</b></p> <p>If you're good at doing something, such as art, gymnastics, skateboarding or Minecraft, for example, you could write some "how to" guides. Use diagrams and labels and take your reader step-by-step, showing them how to do one of the things you can do. You need to be very clear and precise with this kind of writing, so try it out on someone at home, and make changes if it's not clear.</p>	<p><b>Spelling</b></p> <p>When you are writing, make sure you circle any words where you're not sure of the spelling. When you've finished, use a dictionary to check your spelling.</p> <p>P4 can use <a href="#">doorway speller</a> to practice common words</p> <p>P5-7 can use their <a href="#">SpellingFrame</a> logins to practise spelling.</p> <p><b>Remember to focus on splitting words into syllables, and then working through each syllable.</b></p>	

<p><b>Free writing – non-fiction</b></p> <p>This is a good opportunity to write a book, or poster, or newspaper article, or a web page about a subject that really interests you.</p> <p>Choose your subject and research it, then have a look of examples of the kinds of things you want to write. How are they structured – do they have headings and subheadings? Is there a glossary to explain tricky words? Do they have illustrations or diagrams?</p>	<p><b>Vocabulary</b></p> <p>Sometimes you want writing to be very clear, simple and precise, as in instructions and scientific reports. Other times you want to include lots more descriptive and varied language to capture the imagination of your reader.</p> <p>Building sentences can be a fun way to see how much description is enough – sometimes it a bit too much and can overload.</p> <p>Try starting with a simple sentence: The cat ate the fish. Now try adding some adjectives: The lazy cat ate the slippery fish.</p> <p>Can you try some adverbs? Yesterday, the lazy cat ate the slippery fish slowly. This is starting to feel quite overloaded. Try out different adjectives and adverbs, until your sentences is just right.</p>	
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