

Write Here! Write Now! / Cary Nadzak

Ideas from presentation!

Great **website** for writing prompts/research: ODDEE.COM

Use **videoclips** to jumpstart writing! Youtube, Wingclips, Think or Thwim, Teachertube – show a short 1 or 2 minute video and then have kids write on topic

Use **music** to get kids in mood to write! Type up a list of prompts that go with the song and put on the overhead or Smartboard – play the song once while kids just listen – then play the song while they write.

Analyze songs . . .

- Choose a theme
- Ask kids to find a song that represents that theme
- Pick out words, phrases, lyrics in the song and double journal why they represent the theme
- Bring in chosen songs & have a song jam

Extension Activities for Themes

- Write your own song lyrics
- Find a poem with the same theme
- Write about how the theme fits into your life
- Write about a TV episode fitting the theme
- Create a short film revolving around the theme
- Interview people about how the theme has affected their lives – write a news article

Paint to music – then have kids write parts-of-speech poem – then a paragraph from their poem.

Use entire **movies** to jumpstart writing! My law ed class watched *Million Dollar Baby* – discussed euthanasia laws – then kids decided whether or not they would ask someone to die or if they would help someone die – we wrote the essays in class AFTER I modeled the process.

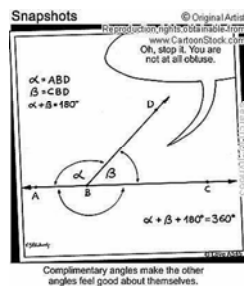
Hot star of *Angles Gone Wild* seen

ADJACENT to

Model! Model! Model!

Would you want to be murdered?
Euthanasia is a controversial topic.
Is it death w/dignity or murder?
Extreme pain + suffering may
cause the wish to die.
I would want to die if I were braindead,
but not if I were a paraplegic or terminally ill.

decision affects laws



Angelina Angle is packin' on the degrees. Once a curvy ACUTE angle of less than 90 degrees she is now a hefty 140 degrees and growing! Friends try to be COMPLEMENTARY but secretly comment on her OBTUSENESS!

Create **tabloid stories** for historical characters, novel characters, math or science terms.

Use **Easter eggs!** As kids come into room hand them a plastic Easter egg with review question(s) or journal starter in it. OR put sports action photos in eggs & have kids write play by play account OR put fashion pictures & have kids write runway descriptions!

Tape up **landscapes** in hall – have kids do gallery walk then choose one landscape – write about what happened there OR the feelings the photo evokes OR why they like it best.

Write a **eulogy** for a disease studied in a science class, math term, or historical figure/

Here lies SLOPE, a.k.a. "m"
Loved by x and y
Already missed by Y-intercept,
a.k.a. "b"
May he rise and run with the angels
in that big graph in the sky!

Show **video clips of superheroes** – then compare heroes, create original action heroes, research real-life heroes, write letters to soldiers, write thank you notes to heroes

Show **controversial** photos, bumper stickers, license plates – have kids react in writing.

Use **quotes** to spur writing.

Create **poems & raps.**

There once was a hypotenuse
 Who put his sides to use
 Squared them did he
 Yes both a & b
 Angles not right he refused!

Bio-poem

_____ (name)
 _____, _____, _____, _____ (adjectives)
 lover of _____, _____ & _____
 who feels _____, _____ & _____
 who needs _____
 who gives _____
 who fears _____, _____ & _____
 who would like to see _____ & _____
 resident of _____
 _____ (name)

Write Around

- After group reads a selection each student writes one concept at the top of an index card
- At signal students pass card to student next to them who writes response
- Continue until students receive original card
- Great for analyzing characters or actions in novels or for synonyms for concepts



Other ideas!

- Write a proposal to a movie producer to make a movie of the week
- Write a theme song for the book after class has read an entire adolescent novel during read-alouds
- Take digital pictures of students and teachers laughing in your school – print and give each group of students one – have group write an original clean joke or anecdote about which the person could have been laughing
- Write a want ad for a linear equation
- Find or take pictures of people doing weird or seemingly secret things – have students write tabloid type articles about the pictures
- Create a class website
- Turn one of your classroom walls into a graffiti wall – allow students to write about their lives, concerns, issues - graffiti should not be critical of others