

FRESH Writing Ideas for the End of the Year

15 Favorite Words (word search)

1. Ask each student to share up to 15 words related of a topic of their choice.
2. Each word must be 15 letters or less
3. Create individual word searches using tools.atozteacherstuff.com/word-search-maker. (Takes about 3-5 minutes to type in the words and make a print.)
4. Reproduce the word searches for classmates to use.

How to

1. Students use a step-by-step approach to write out how to do a simple task: make sharpen a pencil, put on a jacket and zip to closed, walk to the library from their classroom, walk to the play shed, make a PB&J sandwich, etc.
2. As the teacher, follow their directions aloud, exactly as written. Do not add any other movements, etc. to demonstrate. (It's funny and also harder to do than it appears.)
EXAMPLE: When I used to do it with kids, I'd demo how to put on a jacket per their verbal directions. If they said, put my arms in the jacket, I did it upside down and backward unless they wrote specific directions that prevented that motion.
3. Turn them loose writing their own how-to.
4. Demonstrate their directions and enjoy the craziness!
5. Older students might enjoy illustrating their how-to.

Captions

1. Pass out single frame cartoons or photos of news events, sports, etc. with the captions removed.
2. Ask the students to write new captions or a short story.
3. Share their captions/stories.

Sensory Poem or Story

1. Read a poem or story that used sensory images:
 - a. The Colors of the Day by XXXX (color words)
 - b. Imagine a Night by XXX (visual impact)
2. Discuss the senses: touch, hear, sound, taste, smell. Maybe you can find a book on senses
3. Pick 1 or 2 senses to write about.
4. Create a word list for each sense you plan to use before you start writing.
5. Select a simple topic: foods, weather, their bedroom, a favorite place to visit, playing with friends, favorite holiday, their pets, etc.
6. Share the stories aloud.

Create a New Animal

1. Use your imagination to write about a new character just discovered in the forest, jungle, city, ocean, polar, or desert location.
2. Draw the animal but do not show the drawing to anyone.
3. Exchange papers so a student must read the description then draw the animal.
Compare it to the animal the author drew.
4. Discuss the reason for the differences.