

FRIDAY FREEBIE

Freewriting with Purpose

Simple classroom techniques to help students make connections, think critically, and construct meaning



Freewriting Prompts

Karen Filewych

General Prompts, Varied Responses

Everyone can respond to the prompt “I feel ...,” for example, because we all feel something. Everyone can respond to the prompt “I need ...,” again, because we all need something. We are not dictating what our students write: they are going to write what comes to mind based on the few words we give them. The writing will therefore be wonderfully varied. Writing assignments on a given topic such as a summer vacation limit our students’ choices and, therefore, the level of engagement. Not all students want to write about their summer vacations. Free-writing prompts, however, can lead us anywhere!

Provide a two- or three-word prompt regardless of the circumstance. Here is a basic list of effective prompts focused on *I*:

I remember ...	I want ...	I like to ...
I am ...	I need ...	Today I ...
I am not ...	I think ...	I believe ...
I am from ...	I feel ...	I enjoy ...
I've lost ...	I collect ...	
I wish ...	I wonder ...	

Some prompts, such as these, are slightly longer or written in a different format:

I am grateful for ...	The trouble with ...
I want to be ...	I wish my parents knew ...
I'm worried about ...	I wish my teacher knew ...
I'm not happy about ...	I wish I knew ...
I'm upset about ...	I feel good when ...
I am sorry that ...	A friend is ...
I am a friend to ...	Currently I see ...
Everybody should ...	Currently I feel ...
Sometimes I dream ...	The truth is ...
Maybe one day ...	I am obsessed with ...
I don't like people who ...	When we went to ...
What I like best about this class is ...	Writing is ...
The funniest thing I ever saw ...	I said goodbye to ...
I'm proud of myself when ...	I wish I had a key to ...
When I was six ...	My hands ...
The best laugh I've heard is ...	It's not fair that ...
You won't believe this, but ...	Learning to drive will be ...
The weather outside ...	When I am older ...