

Getting kids writing: one sentence at a time

Extended texts

Prompts for brainstorming

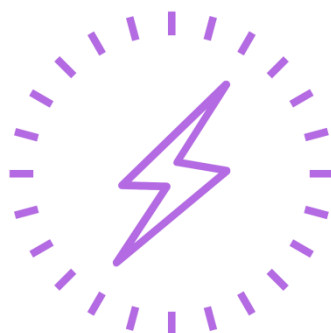
Rules for brainstorming

- Record a large number of ideas in a short time.
- No judgment: bad ideas can lead to good ideas!
- Be spontaneous and free flowing.
- Be courageous and imaginative: feel free to have wild ideas.
- Go for quantity over quality at first – you'll pick the best ideas later.



The topic to brainstorm

Record as many ideas as possible



Categorise and rule out ideas

1. Go over the ideas and circle ideas that relate to each other – maybe this will help them merge into an overall great idea.
2. Rule out the ideas that just don't work for you or the solution to the topic.
3. Now look at what you are left with and...

Select the best idea/s

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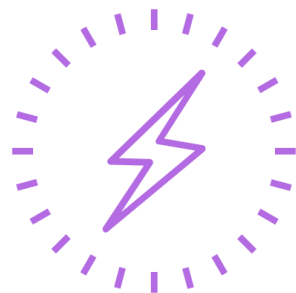
Pre-writing — 10 prompts to prepare to write a narrative text

1. Brainstorm your ideas

(then circle or highlight your favourite)

Rules of brainstorming:

1. Quickly jot down as many ideas for your story as you can.
2. No judgment — ‘bad’ ideas can lead to good ideas.
3. Feel free to have wild and ridiculous ideas.



2. What genre is your story?

(e.g. comedy, horror, adventure, memoir or fantasy)



3. Brainstorm the complications

(then choose the best ones)

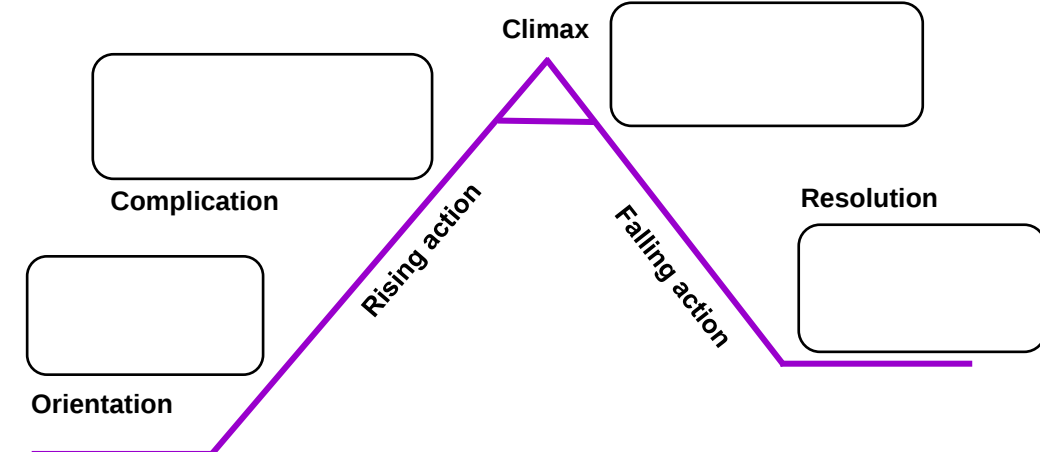
Think about:

- exciting problems the main character/s face
- actions or events that surprise the reader and build tension or suspense



4. Plan your story's structure

(experiment with beginning, middle and end)



5. Describe the setting

Where is the story set?

When is the story set? (e.g. past, present or future)

Will the time change throughout the story (e.g. flashback or flash forward)?

What is the weather like?

What time of year is it?

What time of day or night is it when the story starts?

What is the landscape like?

What people, plants, animals or important landmarks are around? How might these help to add mood to the story?



6. Describe the main character/s

What is their name?

What is something this character would say?

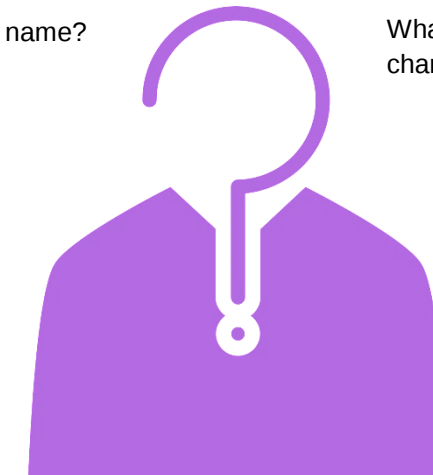
How old are they?

What do they look like?

Where do they live?

What do they act like?

What do they like to do?



Who or what is important to them?

How will the character change or what will they learn?

What else will the reader need to know about this character?

7. Who is your narrator?

(Will it be written in past or present tense? First or third person?)



8. Is there a moral or message in this story?

(What will readers learn from it?)



9. What tone will the writing have?

(the way it is written e.g. chatty, serious, humorous, scary, weird or flowery)



10. Can you think of a catchy title for your story? (you can think of this later, though!)

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Prompts for editing a draft of a narrative text

Definition of edit

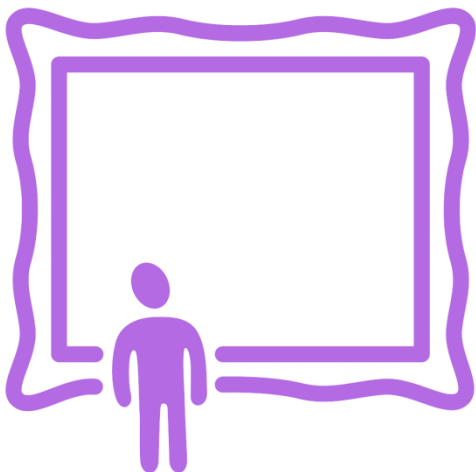
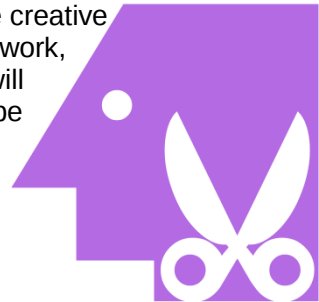
To revise or change a piece of writing to improve it and make it more effective by adding, removing, changing or moving text.

Get ready to think like an editor

You've written a draft story — fantastic! Now it's time to move out of the creative flow and to think like an editor. This means being ready to critique your work, being prepared to add or remove your (precious) words so your story will become better. Writers have to be objective when they do this and not be attached to all the time-consuming writing they have already done.

Some people love to edit their work. However, if it feels like too much extra work, or too daunting, consider this:

- if you are at the editing phase, you have already done some fairly substantial writing (congratulations!); and
- every change you make, no matter how big or small, can help your writing improve.



Big picture editing

Look at the overall effect, for example:

- Does this make sense?
- Is the information in the right order?
- Does it flow from one idea to the next?
- Does it have a strong beginning and end?
- Can I expand descriptions?
- Do I show rather than tell (using action)?
- Is the dialogue dynamic?
- Is there a consistent genre and tone?

Hint: you may need to change the sequence or move paragraphs around — don't be concerned if this looks untidy.

Editing with a fine-toothed comb

Ask questions about details, such as:

- Can I remove unnecessary words or improve any words?
- Is there a variety of sentence types?
- Are the paragraphs well structured?
- Is the dialogue correct?
- Is the tense consistent?
- Have I checked spelling and punctuation?

Hint: revisit sentence-level and paragraph-level editing tips, and if you need to cross things out or add words, don't worry that it looks messy. Your final draft will be worth it!



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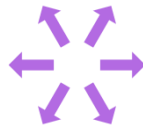
Pre-writing: prompts to prepare to write a persuasive text

Persuasive writing involves arguing a position by stating a claim, supporting it with organised evidence, considering alternate positions, and convincing the reader to accept your claim.

1. What is the topic?

2. Brainstorm your ideas (see the *Brainstorm* sheet).

Brainstorm different positions on this topic then select the position you will put forward.



3. List as many reasons as possible to support your argument.



4. List some possible opposing views to your position.



5. Prove those views wrong! Provide reasons why they are not substantial or convincing enough.



6. Number the best reasons and/or opposing views in a logical order.



4
3
1
2



7. Write a paragraph outline for each point (use the multiple paragraph planner).



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Prompts for editing a draft of a persuasive text

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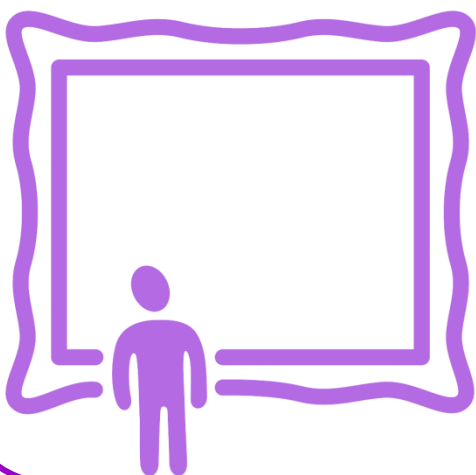
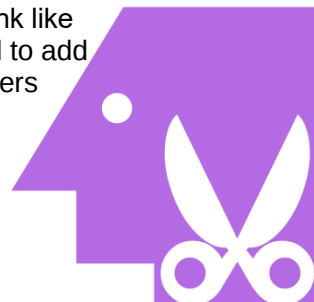
To revise or change a piece of writing to improve it and make it more effective by adding, removing, changing or moving text.

Get ready to think like an editor

You've written a draft persuasive essay — fantastic! Now it's time to think like an editor. This means being ready to critique your work, being prepared to add or remove your (precious) words so your essay will become better. Writers have to be objective when they do this and not be attached to all the time-consuming writing they have already done.

Some people love to edit their work. However, if it feels like too much extra work, or too daunting, consider this:

- if you are at the editing phase, you have already done some fairly substantial writing (congratulations!); and
- every change you make, no matter how big or small, can help your writing improve.



Big picture editing

Look at the overall effect, for example:

- Does this make sense?
- Is there a consistent position?
- Is the information in the right order?
- Does it flow from one idea to the next?
- Can I expand descriptions?
- Does it have a strong introduction and conclusion? Could I experiment with them?

Hint: you may need to change the sequence or move paragraphs around — don't be concerned if this looks untidy.

Editing with a fine-toothed comb

Ask questions about details, such as:

- Can I remove unnecessary words or improve any words?
- Have I used precise vocabulary to persuade and influence the reader?
- Is there a variety of sentence types?
- Are the paragraphs well structured?
- Is the tense consistent?
- Have I checked spelling and punctuation?

Hint: revisit sentence-level and paragraph-level editing tips, and if you need to cross things out or add words, don't worry that it looks messy. Your final draft will be worth it.

