

“Before You Go... Write Away”

Reflective Writing Activities

Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Write a letter to... (the main character, author, etc.) of the story/passage -Alternative Response to a Story: Have the students write an alternative ending to a fiction story, poem, or drama. -What is info/character info is missing: Using Nonfiction or fiction texts, have students write questions about missing information from the text, or what was never stated clearly in the text. -Inference: Based on the information presented, what can you infer about the... (Characters, setting, conclusion, specific vocabulary words, etc.)
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Math Hints Board (to help those Struggling): Create a bulletin board that students can contribute to that gives those in the class (or other classes) hints or encouragement to solve difficult concepts. -Math Jingles: Have your students write/create a short poem, jingle or song about a concept you are working on. -Do It Yourself (Word Problems or Computational problems): Have students write a similar problem, and solve the problem. Make sure they give detailed written steps in WORDS (not just numbers) to solve the problem. -Expanded Weekly Math Vocab. Journal: Have students write one new math vocabulary word per week (not teacher assigned words). Have them explain how it might be beneficial to know the word or how it is applicable to their daily lives.
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Everyday Science Journal: Science should have an impact on students’ lives every day. Challenge them to write for 3-5 minutes each day on how science is impacting their world presently. Challenge them to write on different topics each time. -Cycles: Pick a cycle (Rock, Water, Life, etc.) in science, and have the students write a story which includes the parts/elements of a cycle. -It’s a Scientific Fact: Introduce daily science facts via sites like: http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts.html Have students write their opinions and responses to these facts. -Guinea Pigs: Have students write about an experiment they would like to do. Have them write steps to how they think a scientific problem could be solved.
Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -“If I could go to...” : Have maps available for students, or using laptops and Google Earth online, have students create a list of towns, cities, states, countries, and continents they would like to visit. Frequently revisit their list, and have the students write a few minutes as to why they would want to go to the places chosen. This could be a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly activity. -Re-write History: After a unit that specifically studies a historic event, have the students do a “quick write” in which the students re-write a historic event or explain how it could have happened differently. -Student GPS: Have the students write/explain using directions and geographical features on a map to get from one place to another. This could be done in a list format, or a narrative format. -Historian/Culture Quote: Have students respond to quotes of a famous historical figure, a certain cultural practice, or event in history.

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General Reflective Writing Activities for students:

- Have the students submit questions to post on a board/wall which can be posted throughout the year. Questions will remain posted, and could be later used as review. This activity could be done after lessons, or as questions arise.
- Students may also create a list of topics (subject related) that interest them, which can be used to write, or help plan lessons at a later date
- Get students’ written response about how the lesson content shared can be incorporated or related to their daily lives
- Have the students write five questions about the topic or subject
- Encourage students to write five things that they liked or disliked about the lesson or the content
- Have students write/respond about artwork or visuals related to specific content

Websites/Tools for Reflective Writing

Storybird— <http://storybird.com/> (Reading centered) “Visual Storytelling” for writing, reading, and art.

Read, Write, Think— <http://www.readwritethink.org> (Mainly Reading centered, could be used in other Subjects) On the website, search “Student Interactives” for forms and graphic organizers that can be used for reflective writing.

Story Starters— <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/story-starters/>

Kid Blog— <http://kidblog.org/home/> (All subjects) A blog space for students and teachers. Could serve as a digital portfolio.

Edmodo— <https://www.edmodo.com/> (All subjects) Digital Classroom Space; Students can respond to lessons, video clips, topics, and postings.

Daily Facts websites— <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts.html> (Science); <http://www.kidspast.com/historical-quotes/> (Social Studies); <http://www.kidsmathgamesonline.com/facts/funnymathquotes.html> (Math)

Writing Prompts— <http://www.dailyteachingtools.com/journal-writing-prompts.html> (180 different prompts)