

Writing

Fundamentals for the Middle-School Classroom

BY

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Many Types of Personal Writing

- People write letters to friends and relatives to invite people to events, to thank them for gifts or favors, and to keep in touch.
- They write letters to businesses to compliment or complain about products or services or to request more information.
- Letters may be handwritten, typed and printed on the computer, mailed, or sent as e-mails to any place in the world.
- Autobiographical writing can include anecdotes, memorable events, life stories, and personal accounts of events.
- Blogs, social networking sites, and internet group forums can be a powerful form of personal writing that can be autobiographical, personal, or opinion-based in nature.
- Although texting uses its own set of abbreviations and phrases, it is still a way of expressing yourself through writing.
- Journaling allows writers to express personal thoughts and feelings privately. A journal can be a source for emotional release when feeling troubled, hurt, or lonely.
- Journal writing helps us to become more observant of ourselves and the world around us. Journaling allows us to exercise our imagination in words and pictures.
- Some types of personal writing, like letters, are meant to be shared with others. Journaling is often more private. What goes into your journal is up to you. It is also up to you whether or not you share your journal with others.
- Regular journal writing provides a written record you can use to go back and read again later. Writing in a journal while traveling helps remind you of what you saw and did. A journal is a place to store thoughts and ideas so they don't get lost.

Some activities in this section involve writing journal entries. A journal can be any type of book with blank pages. It doesn't need to be fancy or expensive. You can write your journal in a spiral notebook, on theme paper in a three-ring binder, or even in a file on the computer.

1. Why do you think e-mail and texting have become so popular?

2. What types of things could you include in your journal?



Journaling

What should you write about in your journal? Anything you want. Stumped for writing ideas? Here's a few to get you started:

- ✎ The place I would most like to visit is ... because ...
- ✎ The person I most admire is ... because ...
- ✎ If I were an animal, I would be a ... because ...
- ✎ The most unique thing about me is ...
- ✎ To me, friendship means ...
- ✎ The thing that upsets me the most is ...
- ✎ The ten things I would most like to have are ...
- ✎ The most important lesson I ever learned was ...
- ✎ Last night, I dreamed that ...
- ✎ A skill I would really like to have is to be able to ...
- ✎ If I had \$10,000, I would ...
- ✎ I feel afraid when ... because ...
- ✎ If I could invent something, it would be ...
- ◆ Besides writing in your journal, you could doodle or draw pictures.
- ◆ If you find a picture or cartoon in a magazine or on the Internet that you like, you could cut it out or print it and add it to your journal. It may become a writing idea.
- ◆ You could write the words to a song you like or a quotation by a famous person—or even one by someone who is not famous.
- ◆ When you think of good writing ideas, save them in your journal. Jot them down before they float off and dissolve like a wispy cloud on a windy day.

Write a journal entry using any of the ideas on this page. Also, save this page for another time when you need an idea.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Autobiography: All About You

An **autobiography** is a true account that a person writes about his or her life. It can include major events or focus on one specific event.

An autobiography can be about a person's whole life. It can be about one period in a person's life, such as childhood or a term as president. It can also be about one important day, or even about one important event, like meeting a celebrity, winning a contest, or witnessing an accident.

List ideas for each topic you could use for an autobiographical essay.

1. A special holiday: _____

2. An important day in your life: _____

3. A time you were proud of yourself: _____

4. Your bravest deed: _____

5. The ten best things about yourself: _____

6. An unusual day in your life: _____

7. The most valuable lesson you have learned in your life: _____

8. Use any of your ideas to write an autobiography on your own paper.

9. When you finish the rough draft, edit, revise, and proofread before writing the final version. If possible, add pictures or photographs.

