



English, Grade 10 Academic

Coming of Age

Creative Writing Activities

DAILY JOURNAL PROMPTS

- Begin each class with a journal topic written on the board. Have students keep a section in their binders or use file folders for collecting journals.
- Date and number each journal and have students keep a table of contents for their journals.
- Periodically ask students to reread journals and choose one for peer editing and polishing. This polished piece can then be evaluated.
- Have students propose daily journal topics; keep an “idea box” on the desk for students to put their topics into.

GROUP WRITING

- Have students in groups write a story or poem one line at a time by passing a piece of paper around. Students can fold over their lines after writing them to create a more “abstract” piece of writing.
- Have students create an individual character, then form partners or groups. Each partner or group must then decide how their characters know each other. Have them come up with a premise for a story or script based on this group of characters.

OBSERVATION EXERCISES

- Have students observe people over a period of time, taking notes and using them for writing exercises
- Take students on a walk to observe surroundings.
- Give students specific “spy missions” to complete, such as eavesdropping, observing strangers, looking in people’s grocery carts, etc.

INSPIRATION EXERCISES

- Have students collect objects, images or music that they find inspiring. Share them with the class, create a gallery of images, or play music to the class and write pieces connected to them.

FREE WRITES

- Give students the option of writing on a topic of their choice.
- Do “automatic writing” where students cannot take their pens off the page, and must write uncensored.

FOUND WRITING

- Have students write poems based only on words they can see in the classroom.
- Give students books or newspapers to take words from for their writing. Use the Burroughs fold-in technique and have them cut up paper and combine them to make interesting word combinations.

WRITING FROM READING

- Have students write found poems using only words from their books.
- Write a story based on the first or last line in a book.
- Have students take a secondary character from a book and write a story focused around that character.
- Have students write a sequel or missing chapter for their books.
- Have students write a new piece in the style of an author.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

- Metafilter
- [The 4 A.M. Breakthrough](#) by Brian Kiteley, published in January 2009, by Writer’s Digest Books
- [The Writer’s Block: 786 Ideas to Jump-start Your Imagination:](#)
- [The Writer’s Toolbox](#) by Jamie Cat Callan