

# **Choice Prompt Writing Topics**

**Directions:** Every so often in class, we will do Choice Prompts. Students will choose from these prompts or make up their own and write in their journal. The requirements for each prompt will be given at the start of class. Students should practice using a wide variety of sentence types, correct spelling and punctuation and students should strive to be creative! These choice prompts will give students options in their writing and will allow students to practice their writing skills. Sharing is optional but encouraged! Students will be asked to at least share their topics with the class!

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1. Write about your passions in life. What do you love to do? What are you good at? What topics, activities, hobbies really peak your interest?
2. What things will people in the future say about how we live now? (Examples: They ate that? They believed that?)
3. Write about your perfect weekend. What would you do and who would you spend your time with?
4. Write about an invention you would like to create. What would you invent and how would you do it?
5. What does your name mean? Free write about names: names you like, names you don't, how a name can affect a person's life, how you feel about your own name, why your parents chose your name, etc.
6. Create a brand new holiday with its own traditions, rituals, foods, and activities.
7. What road-trip would you take if you suddenly could? Write about it.
8. Write about the following prompt, "I'll never forget"...
9. Imagine that we lost all electricity, water, and gas for a month without any time to prepare. Write about how your life would change and how you would survive.
10. Make your bucket list for the next 5 years, the next 10 years, and for life.
11. Tell this story: "Well, I thought it was going to be a regular summer doing all our regular things..."
12. If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? Discuss places in the world that you would most like to visit, places you've been, and places you would never want to go.
13. If you could do any career or profession, what would you do and why?

14. Pick a family member of two and write about his or her reputation in your family, or tell a family legend.
15. A guitar pick, a red balloon, and a wicker basket. Write a scene or a poem that includes these three objects or any three objects.
16. What animal would judge us the most? Write a scene (based on truth or fiction) where two or more people are doing something silly, and they're being observed and criticized by animals.
17. Write about your own worst family vacation memory.
18. Write about your best family vacation memory.
19. Imagine that someone says to you, "Because that's how we've always done it!" Write this out as a scene. (Think: Who said it, what were the circumstances, how did you respond, etc.)
20. What do you think about when you can't sleep? Turn it into a piece of writing.
21. What traditions does your family have? Discuss all of them or just pick one and write about it.
22. Think about your strongest emotion right now (irritation, boredom, happiness, contentment, etc.) and write about what's happening with you emotionally now.
23. What do you struggle with the most? Write about it.
24. Write a description of yourself as a character.
25. Write about your best friend. What are they like? Why are they your best friend?
26. Write about your enemy? What are they like? Why are they your enemy?
27. Think of a person from your past who really deserved a good scolding but never got one. Write a fictional piece where you tell that person off intelligently.
28. Write a story about either honesty or lying. It can be true or made up.
29. Write a story as if you are a fly on the wall in a certain interesting situation.
30. Write as if you are an animal. What is the experience like as this animal?
31. Write about the best piece of advice you ever received.
32. Remember a favorite book from your childhood. Write a scene that includes you and an old copy of that book you find somewhere.

33. "I was so mortified, I wanted to crawl in a hole!" Write a short narrative (fiction or nonfiction) where this is your first sentence. Write about an embarrassing time in your life.
34. Write about a time when you got into an accident of some sort, physically hurt or injured. What happened and how did it get resolved?
35. Ernest Hemingway said to "write hard and clear about what hurts." Write about something that hurts, whether it's an emotional, physical, or phantom pain.
36. Write about your perfect date. Who would it be with? Where would you go? What would you do?
37. Write out a conversation, or make up dialogue between two characters who are meeting each other for the first time in an unexpected place or any other situation.
38. Tell this story: "There it was, finally. Our island. Our very own island. It looked beautiful above the waves of fog, but there was still one question to be answered: why had they sold it to us for only five dollars?"
39. Maya Angelou said "I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way s/he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights." Tell a story in which a character has to deal with one, two, or all three of these scenarios. How does your character respond?
40. You have a chance to go back and completely re-do an event in your life. What is it, and how would you change it? What is the outcome? This can be a real or fictional event.
41. Pick two characters from different books you've read this year and have them get in an argument about something (e.g., who has suffered more, who has had a happier life, etc.).
42. The one shoe in the road: why is it there? Write a story about the circumstances that led to one shoe in the middle of the road.
43. You get to guest star on a TV show. What show is it? What happens in this particular episode?
44. What would you pack in your suitcase if you could not go home again?
45. What do you think it would be like to be an alien? Write about the experience.
46. What current fashion in clothing do you particularly like or dislike? Why?
47. Discuss your favorite types of foods or meals and why you like them so much.

48. "When I stepped outside, the whole world smelled like..." Write a scene that starts with that line.

49. Write a poem entitled "Hitchhiking on a Saturday Afternoon."

50. Use these two lines of dialogue in a story: "What's in your hand?" "It's mine. I found it."

51. Write a scene that happens in a parking lot between a teenager and a man in a convertible.

52. If you only had one window to look out of for the next six months, what would you want to see on the other side? Describe the view. How would it change?

53. Write a story for children. Start with "Once upon a time" or "Long ago in a land far away." Include a dragon, a deadly flower, and a mask.

54. "Did she actually just say that?" Write a scene that includes this line.

55. If you could meet any celebrity, who would you meet? What would you do? Where would you go?

56. Write about your favorite song or musician? Why is it/are they your favorite?

57. Write about your favorite movie. Why is it your favorite?

58. Write about the biggest mistake you made this week. Now write about the best thing you did this week.

59. What is the very first memory that you have? Write about it.

60. What if your pet could only talk to you at midnight for an hour?

61. Write an acrostic poem using your full name and three words that describe you—good and bad— for each letter. For example,

S: sensitive, stubborn, smiling.

A: artistic, argumentative, agoraphobic

M: melodramatic, moody, magical

62. What if you could create your own TV show with all your friends and loved ones as the cast? What kind of show would it be and who would play which parts?

63. Choose a picture and write about it.

64. A to Z: Make an alphabetical list of advice for someone who is about to become a teenager. For example: A: ask forgiveness, not permission. B.: bake cookies. C.: cook something delicious once a month. D: don't compare yourself to others.

65. What does it mean to be happy? What does it mean to be successful? What do these things mean to you?
66. Write about 5 things you'd rather be doing right now than writing a choice prompt!
67. Write about a pet you've had in the past or if you could have any pet, what would it be and why?
68. Who are your favorite people to talk to in your life? Why?
69. Write as though you are any month in the year. Be the month and describe what the month is like.
70. Animals can sometimes seem remarkably human. Describe an experience with an animal that acted in a very human way.
71. Imagine you opted to have yourself frozen for 50 years. Describe your first days unfrozen, 50 years in the future.
72. Imagine that you are an astronaut who has been doing research on the moon for three years. You are do to go back to earth in a week when nuclear war breaks out on earth. You watch the earth explode. Then what?
73. Create a menu from a fictitious restaurant. Make sure the restaurant has a theme, such as Classic Books, and the food should all be given appropriate names (e.g., "Mockingbird Pie").
74. Preconceived notions are often false. Describe a time when you discovered that a preconceived notion of yours (about a person, place, or thing) turned out to be wrong.
75. Create a story using words of one-syllable only, beginning with a phrase such as:  
"The last time I saw her, she..."  
"From the back of the truck..."  
"On the night of the full moon..."  
"The one thing I know for sure..."
76. Describe a significant person (teacher, neighbor, mentor, coach, parent, sibling, sweetheart) with as many physical details as possible and as many similes as possible. (E.g., "Her hair was as golden as straw.")
77. Write about your first name—why you were given it, what associations or stories are attached to it, what you think or know it means. Do the same for your last name. What name would you give yourself other than the one you actually have?
78. Parents are our first and most important teachers. Describe a valuable lesson you learned from one of your parents.

79. Imagine a moral dilemma (for example, you see someone shoplift or a friend tells a blatant lie to her parents about where she was last night) and explain what you would do and why you would do it.
80. Review an obituary, birth, or a section from the police record or classified ads section of a local newspaper. Choose one and tell the story behind it.
81. List the most attractive things about your current hometown. Now list the most unattractive things.
82. Write about your favorite memory in your life. What did you do? Why is it your favorite?
83. Where is your happy place? Write about it and include a picture or drawing.
84. Create a how-to manual for something you can do well (make a craft, bake cookies, restring a guitar, apply make up, etc.). Describe the process so that someone else could complete the task based on your directions. Use present tense verbs.
85. Write about any quote you can find that you like.
86. Pretend you are a famous person. What is your life like?
87. Make a soundtrack for your life so far. List songs that describe you or different times of your life. Explain why you chose each song.
88. Sometimes we find ourselves in situations that force us to face our deepest fears. Tell about a time when you had to face one of your greatest fears—or make up the story.
89. You're a talk show host. Pick two guests. Why did you choose them? Are they people who get along, or people with vastly different viewpoints? Write about the episode.
90. What three books do you think should be required reading for everyone? Why?
91. "What you don't know what hurt you." Write a story that begins with this statement.
92. Free write on this quote by Woodrow Wilson: "Friendship is the only cement that will hold the world together."
93. Free write on the quote, "Some things are better left unsaid".
94. Rewrite any children's story in your own way. .

95. There is a saying that you should be careful what you wish for, because you just might get it. Describe a time when you wished for something and got it—and then wished you hadn't—or make up a story in which this happens to the character.

96. As the saying goes, "rules are meant to be broken." Tell about a time when you broke the rules and what happened as a result.

97. "That's not what I meant!" Write a story that has this line in it somewhere.

98. What would your perfect school look like? What about your perfect school day?

99. Write about something exciting that you would like to do in your life.

100. Create your own writing prompt!