

“Wow” Writing on Wednesdays

Directions: Please have each student respond to the prompt (s) in an “extended paragraph” format, requiring there be at least 15-20 sentences in their paragraph. Furthermore, please review and emphasize the “Writing Focus” for each week i.e. complete sentences. subject/verb agreement. etc.

Writing Prompts: Expository/Persuasive	Writing Techniques (Focus)
<p>Sports 8/19/2009</p> <p><i>A Sense of Sports</i> People feel passionately about sports. Some play sports and detest it, while others play and love it. Some love to watch the games of pro or local teams. Some people loathe sports and think that the people who play them and watch them are brainless jocks. Which group do you fall into? Explain.</p>	<p>Writing Requirements: Teachers focus this week on making sure that students create complete sentences, eliminating fragments. Discuss the importance of clarity and focus when writing, which is generated by strong and effective sentences</p>
<p>Science 8/26/2009</p> <p><i>Other Life in the Universe</i> What is your opinion about the possibility of life on other planets? Do you need to see it to believe it, or do you believe that in a universe as vast as ours, alien life must exist? Write on the topic, beginning with the sentence, I believe (or don't believe) there is life on other planets because...</p> <p><i>Nature vs. Nurture</i> The “nature vs. nurture” debate refers to the question of what influences us the most. Some scientists believe that nature (inherited genetic characteristics) shapes us as people. Others believe that nurture (our upbringing and other social influences) shapes us. What do you think? Do you think that genetics determine what we will become, or do the people and things around us have a greater influence?</p>	<p>Writing Requirements: Subject/Verb Agreement: Focus on making sure students realize singular/plural, along with tense.</p>
<p>Social Studies 09/02/2009</p> <p><i>If I Were President...</i> You have just been elected president of the United States America. You must address foreign policy, terrorism, healthcare, the military, the</p>	<p>Writing Requirements: “Show Don't Tell” (Action Verbs). Please have kids focus on removing “tell verbs” i.e. “be” verbs and replace them with action verbs, thereby, creating active voice.</p>

economy, education, the environment, and much more. What are the first three things you will do? Which issues are dearest to you your heart? Do you think those issues overlap with the issues that are most important to the American people?

Taking On the World **09/09/2009**

What do you think are the three most pressing problem facing the United States today? Do you have any ideas about how these problems might be solved? Do you think they will be solved in your lifetime?

You Make the Law

You have been called to Washington, D.C. For some inexplicable reason, the president wants you to add an amendment of your choosing to the Constitution. What would you add? Write out your new amendment, and explain how you hope it will affect or help people of the United States.

Kids in the Shade **09/16/2009**

“One generation plants the trees; another gets the shade.” – Chinese proverb

This proverb, which uses a simple metaphor to express a big idea, applies to all generations. Write about how you think this proverb relates to a current political situation in the United States.

Dinner Party **09/23/2009**

If you could invite any three people from any period in history to a dinner party, whom would you invite? Describe each person, and explain why you chose him or her.

Of Age

You have to reach a certain age to do many things, such as drive, drink, and vote. Do you agree with the legal ages in your state? If you think any of the laws should be changed, explain why.

Writing Requirements: Spiral learning: Revisit first three requirements listed above, emphasizing the need to continue to develop those skills.

Writing Requirements: Pronoun/Antecedent Agreement- direct students in understanding the need for the pronoun and its antecedent to be clearly connected.

Writing Requirements: Concrete/Abstract Language: identify the different types, showing on concrete provides clarity while abstract creates misunderstanding and frustration.

<p>Business and Technology 09/30/2009</p> <p><i>The Price of Technology</i> Technology has led to the discovery of vaccines and medical treatments, has brought computers and televisions into people's homes, and it has provided us with electricity, the Internet, phones, cars, planes, and much more. But an argument can be made that technology has largely worsened the quality of our lives, polluting the air, making our lives needlessly stressful, and dampening our enthusiasm for books.</p> <p>If you had to give up one technological advantage that you use all the time, what would it be? Do you think you'd be better off without it?</p> <p><i>The Business of Choice 10/07/2009</i> If you could own the business of your dreams, what would it be? Would it be a small business or a large business? What service or product would you sell? Where would it be located? Would you employ your friends?</p> <p><i>Wanted: Great Employee</i> Write an ad pitching yourself to the employer of your choice. Think about what your employer might be looking for in an employee, and portray your strengths in the best possible light. Attempt to use catchy phrases and clever writing to advertise yourself.</p>	<p>Writing Requirements: Punctuation/Grammar: Focus on peer reviewing in order to eliminate spelling, capitalization, and punctuation mistakes.</p> <p>Writing Requirements: "Audience" Who are you writing for and who are you? Focus on identifying the intended audience and providing the proper information needed for clarity and understand. Furthermore, know who you are: student, citizen, mother/father, business owner, etc.</p> <p>Writing Requirements: Spiral learning: Revisit first requirements listed above, emphasizing the need to continue to develop those skills.</p>

<p>Arts</p> <p><i>Spilled Popcorn</i> 10/14/2009 What's the worst movie you've seen recently? Imagine you're a film critic and write a couple of paragraphs tearing this movie to shreds.</p> <p><i>Musical Memories</i> Songs can evoke vivid memories; hearing a particular song can rocket you back to seventh or eighth grade or last summer. Write about a song that is really evocative of a certain time in your life.</p>	<p>Writing Requirements: Voice=Tone/Mood- Have students create and identify their voice through the illustration of proper diction and syntax. Furthermore, make sure they understand the power of language.</p>
<p>General</p> <p><i>Super Powers!</i> 10/21/2009 Superheroes have it pretty good. Sure, many of them are lonely, tormented and misunderstood, but, as compensation, they can create massive storms at will, or fly, or shoot swords out of their fingers. If you could have any power, what would you choose, and why? What would you do with your new power?</p> <p><i>Bingo Manual</i> 10/28/2009 Practice writing in a clear and concise manner by explaining the rules of your favorite game. You can choose a sport, such as baseball or football; a game, such as chess or checker; or even a video game. To force yourself to be clear, write as if your reader is someone who's never even heard of the game.</p> <p><i>It's Alive!</i> If you could bring one inanimate object to life, what would it be?</p> <p>Your mother's prom dress, your teacher's mirror, your boyfriend's or girlfriend's jacket? What questions would you ask this object? Write your conversation in dialogue format.</p>	<p>Writing Requirements: Elaboration/Concrete Details- Have students provide multiple examples of support for their hypothesis, along with concrete language that provides for specifics through imagery.</p> <p>Writing Requirements: Please revisit the writing requirements mentioned previous so that they are continuing to build their skills.</p>

Hit the Jackpot! 11/04/2009

Suppose you win \$10 million in the lottery, but there's a catch: You have to donate half the money to charity. What charity would you choose? What would you do with the money you got to keep?

Scandal!

Gossip columnists collect the latest dirt on celebrities. Write a paragraph about the latest scandals in the headlines. Use the breathless, dishy tone of a gossip columnist.

A Dream Come True 11/11/2009

It's sometimes incredibly boring to listen to other people talk about their dreams, but always incredibly fun to talk at length about your own. Well, now's your chance: Describe your most terrifying nightmare, or a recurring dream, and the dream you wish had been real.

From Passive to Active

"We have not passed that subtle line between childhood and adulthood until we move from the passive voice to the active voice—that is, until we have stopped saying 'It got lost,' and say, 'I lost it.'" – Sidney J. Harris

Harris uses grammar to make a larger point: that only when we start taking responsibility for our actions can we call ourselves adults. Write about a moment when you were tempted to use the passive voice (that is, refuse to take responsibility) but ultimately decided to use the active voice.

If I Were Hermione

You've probably read books from a wide variety of genres—fairy tales, science fiction, poems, romance, mysteries. If you could live the life of any character in fiction, whom would you choose, and why?

Money Matters

You probably spend your money (or your parents' money) on school supplies, food, clothes, movies, and gifts. Of all the things you've spent money on this year, what is the best/worst spending decision you've made?

Writing Requirements: Denotation/Connotation: Have students focus on the definition of words but more important the feelings/connections (connotation) associated with that word, requiring them to use proper diction.

Writing Requirements: Introduction Paragraphs- Make sure that their central idea is creative and effective. Examples of "attention grabbers": allusion, personal scenario, quotes, bold statements, facts, etc.

