

# CREATING CONFIDENT WRITERS

Teachers Conference 2022

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## PROBLEMS

## SOLUTIONS/NOTES

### Neurological Difficulty of the Task

Teachers need to be aware of the many simultaneous mental tasks being performed:

- Motor skills
- Application of grammar and spelling
- Planning/decision-making
- Creative idea generation
- Concentration
- Imagination and visualization
- Long-term storage retrieval
- Language processing
- Reading comprehension

### Fear / Perfectionism

Teachers need to be aware that...

- Students can often have the idea that a rough draft needs to be perfect
- Students need to be taught and encouraged how to make messy first drafts

### Lack of Structure

Writing lessons lacking the following elements can make it more difficult for students to write with confidence:

PRE-WRITING  
Instruction,  
Brainstorming,  
Planning

WRITING

POST-WRITING  
Editing, Revising,  
Feedback

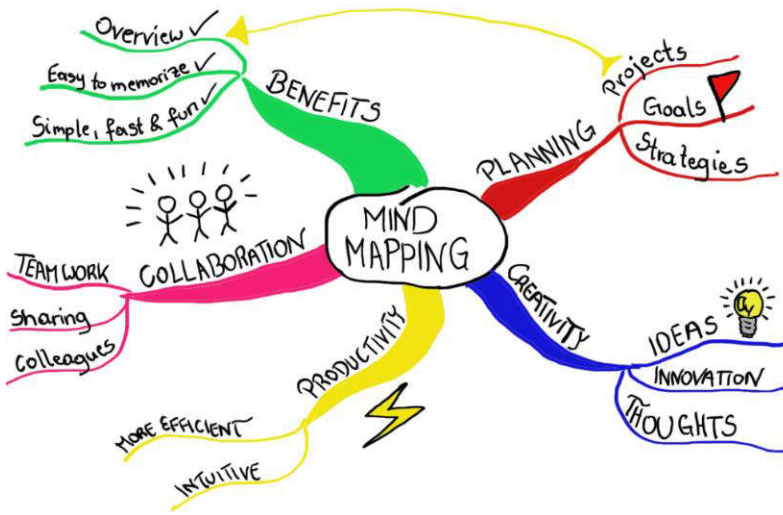
#### Pre-Writing

- Lesson presentation
- Mentor texts
- Brainstorming/planning

#### Post-Writing

- Revising vs. editing
- Feedback
  - Symbol system
  - Teacher conferences
  - Peer review

# BRAINSTORMING/PLANNING EXAMPLES



Hear	See	Smell
Taste	Feel	Touch

Brainstorming: Write the Christmas Story from a Unique Perspective

Which perspective are you telling your story from? \_\_\_\_\_

What are some unique things that would only be seen/experienced through that perspective?

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What might your character have been thinking or feeling as the story unfolds?

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What parts of the story would have been a big deal to your character?

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Quick-Write: Write as many things as you can until the timer rings. Try to never let your pencil stop moving. If you are stuck, just keep writing the last word until a new idea comes to you. Try to get every thought in your head onto the paper.

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## FIND a UNIQUE Voice!

Could you be funny? Sarcastic? Ridiculous? Overly descriptive? A big-long-word user? A word inventor?

Circle which one of these you would most like to try, then jot down a few ideas of things you could say.

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Can you use out-of-the-ordinary words?

Write a few ideas below.

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Could you have a word or phrase that you keep using repeatedly?

What are some ideas of things it could be?

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Could you give a character (or the narrator) a unique way of talking?

Play around with how you would do that below.

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**HAVING a UNIQUE voice WILL MAKE YOUR WRITING SHINE!**

# REVISION GUIDE EXAMPLES

## Lesson 8 Revision Guide

Circle the description that matches your story.  
 If you're in the frowny face row, you should definitely fix it!  
 If you're in the middle row, you should try your best to fix it.  
 If you're in the smiley face row, you might be able to make it even better!

			
Underline every verb you can find in your story. How many of them are vivid verbs?	Not very many. I'd better change them to vivid verbs.	Some of them are vivid verbs, but I can definitely add more.	Almost all of my verbs are vivid verbs.
Does your story make sense as a continuation of the first line?	Oh. I guess I kind of got off track while I was writing.	Yeah, it mostly connects, but I could have done better in this area.	The first line and the rest of my story flow together wonderfully
Does your story have some sort of problem?	Oops! I didn't do this at all!	I kind of have a problem, but it's sort of lame.	I have a problem in my story that makes the reader want to know what happens.
Is there a satisfying solution to your story's problem?	Not really, no.	Well, there's a solution. I don't know if it's satisfying, though.	Yes! I think it will make the reader feel like the story wraps up nicely.
How long is your story?	Around 1 page	Around 1¼ page	1½ pages
Did you use quotation marks when someone was speaking?	Oh dear. I completely forgot. I'd better fix that.	I remembered most of the time, but there are a few places that I need to fix.	I checked every sentence and I remembered every time.

## Lesson 1 Revision Guide

✓ or ✗	
	I have described a <b>sight</b> , and I used an implicit description
	I have described a <b>smell</b> , and I used an implicit description
	I have described a <b>taste</b> , and I used an implicit description
	I have described a <b>sound</b> , and I used an implicit description
	I have described a <b>feeling</b> , and I used an implicit description
	My story is at least one page long
	I have put punctuation at the end of each sentence
	If I marked any ✗ on this revision guide, I have fixed the problem