

Some Seriously Silly Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

Write about social media.

Describe the best meal you've ever had. Or about the worst.

Once upon a time...

WRITING 2

Doris.

Write about bugs: catching them, eating them, smashing them, running from them, etc.

Write about the princess and the pee.

WRITING 3

Write a piece in which every sentence begins with "Why..."

Explain how it is that you are so darn fashionable!

Write a love letter to libraries or bookstores.

WRITING 4

You live in a far away place. Where is it? Describe a day in that place...

Write about being in prison: physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually...

I'm embarrassed by...



Laughter and Imagination Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

The best kind of laughter is...

Imagine and write about your perfect _____. (Day, meal, conversation, etc.)

What's on your mind this week?

WRITING 2

Write about helping. Either helping others or being helped yourself.

Technology is... Social media is... (Finish the sentence.)

You are an advice columnist. Someone writes in asking you for advice. What is their question? What is your reply?

WRITING 3

Write about “street smarts” versus “book smarts” — or any type of smarts.

Write about getting out of a bad situation. Or about getting into bad situations.

Write about gardening, growing, farming, or anything related to nature.



Justice and Mercy Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

Describe your perfect day.

Write about baby steps versus huge leaps. Are they connected? Is one or the other better?

Your life is a backpack full of stuff. Write about what's in your backpack.

WRITING 2

Write about something you know to be true, but cannot prove.

Write about secrets, conspiracies, or unsolved mysteries.

The world would be a better place if...

WRITING 3

Write about habits good and bad. Reflect on habits in general or get personal and specific.

What do you need to stop doing or start doing? What's the first good step?

Fuzzy things.

Write about justice. Social justice. True and false justice. The Justice League.



Light and Beauty and Darkness and Death Prompts

WRITING 1

Write about old folks, old-timers, and being old. Or write about youth and the young.

Start with this sentence: I don't know about you, but I...

Write about your favorite _____. (Color, song, food, person, book, anything.)

WRITING 2

Respond to this quote by Jim Elliot: "Wherever you are, be all there."

Light. Darkness.

Is there something in your life that you need to release? It could be anything: an old pair of shoes, an idea or belief, a relationship, a habit. Maybe it is a bad thing, maybe it is a good thing. Now imagine you have released that thing. What would that be like?

Home is... Homelessness is...

WRITING 3

Write about beauty.

Write a letter to a five-year-old explaining something big and serious: like death or divorce or racism or religion.

Write a versus piece — cats versus dogs, right versus wrong, coffee versus tea.



From the Group Writing Prompts

Here are some additional prompts from this week's writing groups.

These prompts were suggested in real time by group attendees.

Write about hoarding and hoarders.

Write about your dreams.

Fortitude. What does it mean to you?

Write about hope.

Write about poverty. Why does it exist? What's behind it?

Write about light and darkness in people.

Confidence. What is confidence? Write about it.



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speakupcommunity.com/here-and-now-writing-prompts/

Here and Now Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

“Today will be a great day if...”

Write about flavors.

Write about less versus more.

WRITING 2

Think of all the personal technology in your life, such as computers, email, chat, social media, smartphones, apps, AI, instant news, online shopping, dating, everything. Write about the role and impact of these technologies in your life, relationships, and work.

Consider this quote from Thich Nhat Hanh: “When you love someone, the best you can offer is your presence.”

Where are you now? How did you get here? Where are you heading? Why?

WRITING 3

Write about hard conversations.

Remember a time or instance when you were wrong—in your beliefs, ideas, approach, communication. Write about it.

What’s cool?



Curiosity and Hope Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

“I’m surprised by...”

Write about education, teaching, school, or being a lifelong learner.

Write about an invention or discovery that you appreciate.

WRITING 2

Write about climbing out of the pit.

Write about optimism, hope, faith, and seeing the glass half full. Or write about the complete opposite.

Share about a goal you accomplished. Or about a goal you’d like to reach. Or about something you know you should do but aren’t taking steps toward.

WRITING 3

Think of someone you respect who is different from you—in their belief, age, gender, ethnicity, politics, anything. Write about why you appreciate and respect them.

Share your advice for dealing with disrespect from others in a healthy way.

Write about family.



Three One Five Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

A genie grants you three wishes. Write what happens next.

“I can’t live without...”

Write about five things you own.

WRITING 2

What’s something you have never given up—an object, a belief, a perspective, a sense of yourself, etc—no matter what you’ve faced?

Write about something that was once so important but that you have now left behind.

Is the glass half empty or half full? Or something else? Is there even a glass?

WRITING 3

What was something you thought was a setback (career, health, relationships, etc) that turned out to be an opportunity?

You are a _____. Write about that. Explain it. What do you want people to know about this part of your identity, life, or experience?

Think of someone whose beliefs, lifestyle, or values are different from yours. Write them a letter of gratitude.



Types and Gaps Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

If your pet could talk, what would be the first thing you would say to each other?

You're given \$25,000 and have to spend it on experiences in a single day. Can't give it away, buy products, or save it. Describe that day in detail.

WRITING 2

Write about a job (career) that you believe is THE BEST job ever.

Write about an overused word in our culture today.

WRITING 3

Write about fair or unfair "generational group" stereotypes; i.e., Gen Z, Baby Boomers, Millennials, etc

What type/characteristics/personalities are you drawn to and why?

WRITING 4

Write about an experience that softened you to other people and how.

Think of someone who is or was in your life that you need to appreciate better. Write them a thank you note. Perhaps write to several people.



Coffee is Good, Part 31 Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

Write about animals. Do you have a favorite?

How would you respond if society were about to end and you had only one last cup of coffee to drink?

WRITING 2

Do you have favorite books on the craft of writing? Share about them.

Write about pet peeves. Your pet peeves, other people's pet peeves, or the whole concept in general.

WRITING 3

Pick an ordinary object. Such as a chair, a backpack, or a dollar. Describe life from its perspective.

Today people are voting in South Carolina. Write about elections, politics, and voting.

WRITING 4

Start a piece with either "Homelessness is..." or "Home is..."

Respond to this quote by Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."



Crunch and Munch Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

Write a versus piece. Such as vanilla versus chocolate, mountains versus ocean, or tea versus coffee. Compare anything.

Write a poem about popcorn.

Write about a topic that you have to write about.

WRITING 2

Write about the moon. Do you notice moon cycles? Full moons? Explore this.

Describe a sound from your childhood. Where does it take you?

WRITING 3

Write about how to _____.

WRITING 4

When do you feel most alive?

Write about a meal that meant more than the food on the plate.



Sweet Comparisons Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

Which is better: chocolate chip cookies or oatmeal raisin cookies?

If you could be a bird for a day, what kind and where would you go?

Write about a topic that you have to write about.

WRITING 2

What's something you are good at? And would love to share with others?

What do you love to celebrate? Describe how...

WRITING 3

Ain't nothin' wrong with a big ole _____. Write about it.

WRITING 4

Write about what your younger self would think if they could see what your current self is now.

Write about if technology has truly advanced us or has set us back.



Books and Life as Art Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

What's the last book you read? Would you recommend?

What is something you have always wanted to do or try? What holds you back?

Write about a topic that you have to write about.

WRITING 2

Think of something difficult or painful you've experienced—homelessness, sickness, mental illness, grief, addiction, etc—and write some jokes or funny anecdotes about it.

Write about if your life was a movie right now, what genre would it be? (Comedy, Drama, Horror, etc.) Explain why and share some plot elements that match that genre.

WRITING 3

Ain't nothin' wrong with a big ole _____. Write about it.

WRITING 4

What would you do if the world took away music and art?

Write about if you had a twin doppelganger whose personality was different from “your true self,” what would that doppelganger's personality be like?



Crazy Siblings Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

I have a crazy story to tell...

Write about siblings.

Write about a topic that you have to write about.

WRITING 2

Write about what the opposite version of yourself would be like.

Should you really give someone the benefit of the doubt if it seems like they will let you down or have a history of letting you down?

WRITING 3

Pick a color. Write anything about that color.

WRITING 4

Even if your voice seems unheard or it won't make a difference, is it still worth speaking out?

When summer comes...



Mealy Mouthed Advice Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

Write about a meal that means something to you.

Write about what the soundtrack of your life would be like, listing the songs you love.

Write about a topic that you have to write about.

WRITING 2

What's a piece of advice you got that turned out to be wrong?

What do "dreams" mean to you?

WRITING 3

Write about how to _____.

WRITING 4

Write about what kept you moving at the lowest point in your life.

Write about your mother.



A Bucket of Aliens Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

Write about any bucket list or life goals you have.

What's something small you do every morning that gets you started?

Write about a topic that you have to write about.

WRITING 2

Write about the impression aliens would have about earth if they were to visit.

Write about a sound you'd miss if it disappeared.

WRITING 3

Write about how to _____.

WRITING 4

Give 'em hell, but keep it holy.

Write about a door you've been meaning to open.



Moms and Smells Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

Dear Mom...

Write about bills.

Write about a topic that you have to write about.

WRITING 2

Can you smell snow? Describe.

New Year resolution or intention? What does that mean to you?

WRITING 3

Write about a/an _____ moment in your life.

WRITING 4

Think of an early childhood memory. List the first five things about it that come to mind — visuals, smells, feelings, people, etc. Then begin writing.

Write a poem about spring or seasons.



Dessert Decisions Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

How to decide pie or cake?

What is your favorite or least favorite necessary daily hygiene routine? Explain why.

Write about a topic that you have to write about.

WRITING 2

Write a rhyming poem about falling—falling in love, falling off a log, falling for a trap, etc.

What would be your conga line song? Explain why.

WRITING 3

What's the deal with _____?

WRITING 4

Random word pairing... how do they go together... teapot and thunder? Snowflakes and journal? Stardust and mirror?

Write about "Stranger Things"... the show? Something in real life? Or something fictional?



Books, Chores, and Topics Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

Write about favorite childhood books.

What is your favorite or least favorite household chore? Explain why.

Write about a topic that you have to write about.

WRITING 2

If you gave yourself permission to DO NOTHING, what would you do? How does it feel?

Everything was fine until it started talking...

WRITING 3

Write about how to _____.

WRITING 4

Simplicity vs Maximalism vs Minimalism vs Stuff. Expound and expand!

Why do we exist?



Decisions Decisions Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

This morning you had a moment (put on socks, decided not to make breakfast, whatever) that was the center of your entire day. What would have happened if you hadn't done that thing? What might your day look like because of that one tiny decision the other way?

Peace or Piece? Which one resonates — write about it.

Write about a topic that you have to write about.

WRITING 2

What's an issue you don't understand as much as you want to and why do you want to understand it?

Share an experience where you learned the grass is not always greener on the other side of the fence.

WRITING 3

Write about how to _____.

WRITING 4

What accent are you best at imitating? Tell us about it in that accent.

You could punch mustard as long as you want, it would never touch a doorknob.



Memory and Voice Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

What's a long-distant memory that often returns? What can't you stop thinking about?

Are you speaking your authentic voice or echoing the voices of others? How do you know?

What do you trust more: silence or explanation?

Write about a topic that you have to write about.

WRITING 2

Think of someone that you should have treated better. Write an apology to them.

Share a memory of when you were most amazed by looking up in the skies.

WRITING 3

Write about _____ using only questions.

WRITING 4

Write about ABRACADABRA... figuratively or literally... it means "I create as I speak."

What does this world look like in 25 years?



Cooking and People Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

Write about departures, farewells, and missing people.

Do you like to cook? Write about cooking in your life.

Write about a topic that you have to write about.

WRITING 2

“They thought I was finished but then...” or “I thought I was finished but then...”

What is something that happened to you that was not pleasant at the time, but now you can see it as a blessing in disguise?

WRITING 3

Explain why _____ isn't that great.

WRITING 4

What moves you to tears? (It's ok if the tears move while you share it.)

You have a button that gives you a dollar whenever you push it. But it also makes someone somewhere in the world have a 15-minute panic attack. Write about it.



This and That Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

Write about travel. Experiences. Dreams. Fears.

Write a versus piece. This versus that. Hot vs cold. Etc.

Write about a topic that you have to write about.

WRITING 2

Write about something you don't understand or have struggled to grasp.

Think of someone you know who is different from you in many ways. Write about life from their perspective.

WRITING 3

Write a run-on sentence about the topic of: _____.

WRITING 4

Write about breaking things, being broken, or brokenness. Consider this generally or get personal.

Finish the sentence: "I'm afraid of..." or "I'm no longer afraid of..."



Food and Chicken Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

Write about food, drink, or anything consumable.

Why did the chicken cross the road? Write about chickens, roads, or crossings.

Write about a topic that you have to write about.

WRITING 2

Write about a belief you used to have, but changed your mind about.

February is Black History Month. Write about it.

Continue your previous writing.

WRITING 3

Write a continuous run-on sentence about anything.

WRITING 4

Do you need to apologize, take ownership, or ask forgiveness?

Start with this: “Homelessness is...” or “Home is...”

Continue any of your previous writings.



Playing Games with People Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

Write about games. Do you like playing games? Don't like playing games?

What's your favorite—or most essential—piece of clothing?

Write about finding lost things.

WRITING 2

Think about something you were sad to have lost, but now you are grateful that lost thing is gone.

Have you ever been burned? (By the sun or a flame or a person.) Write about it.

If you could have any superpower, what would it be? How would you use it?

WRITING 3

Respond to this quote by George Bernard Shaw: "A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing."

Are you intensely passionate about something? Is there something you could talk about for hours? Bring us into that world.

Do you think it would be valuable for others to experience homelessness? Or generally life in your shoes? Why or why not? Do you have anyone in mind that it would especially benefit?



Sensory Overload Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

Write about one of the five senses in your life: taste, touch, sight, sound, smell.

Do you have a hobby or something you find yourself drawn toward? Is there a hobby you've wanted to have? Write about it.

Write about a pet peeve or something that annoys you. Consider writing a letter directly to that annoyance.

WRITING 2

Write about breaking things. Or about fixing things.

Who do you love? Who loves you?

WRITING 3

Write about hope: finding it, losing it, giving it.

Write about something in your city or region that is unjust or needs to be corrected. Describe the problem. Suggest how to fix it. What part might you play?



Noticing the Little Things Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

What are some things you do every day? Describe or explain them.

Imagine you could time travel to any time and place. Write about it.

WRITING 2

Write about five things you own. Describe them. Show how they fit into your life.

What advice would you give to your younger self?

WRITING 3

Write about a time when you felt misunderstood and how you handled it.

Imagine you are something or someone different. Imagine life from that perspective. (Such as: a chair, a sumo wrestler, a nickel, an eagle, etc.)



Get Thinking Writing Prompts

WRITING 1

What's on your mind? What are you coming in with?

What is one of your regular habits or routines that is positive?

Share about a movie, show, song, album, or book that you've enjoyed recently.

WRITING 2

Write about anything from the last four weeks.

Sometimes everything just feels hard. Write about choosing to stay positive.

Write about the cold. Or the heat.

WRITING 3

What's on the horizon for you this year? What do you want to be on the horizon?

Think of someone whose life has impacted you. Write them a thank you letter.

What is something that other people really love but you've never understood the appeal?

Write about that.

