

Instant Writing Center

Grades 3-5

Designed to meet these objectives:

Language

- Students will generate ideas from prompts and use graphic organizers to plan their writing.
- Students will write drafts, then revise their work to strengthen their writing.
- Students will edit their own work, correcting punctuation, grammar and spelling as well as improving word choices.
- Students will write in a variety of styles for different purposes.

This well-organized center holds everything your students need for focused writing practice—and you can stand it on a table or hang it on a wall! The center features 80 writing prompts in a variety of fun-to-use formats, covering five essential writing styles, from informative to imaginative. The center also includes useful tools such as graphic organizers and editing flip books. There's even a pocket for completed work!

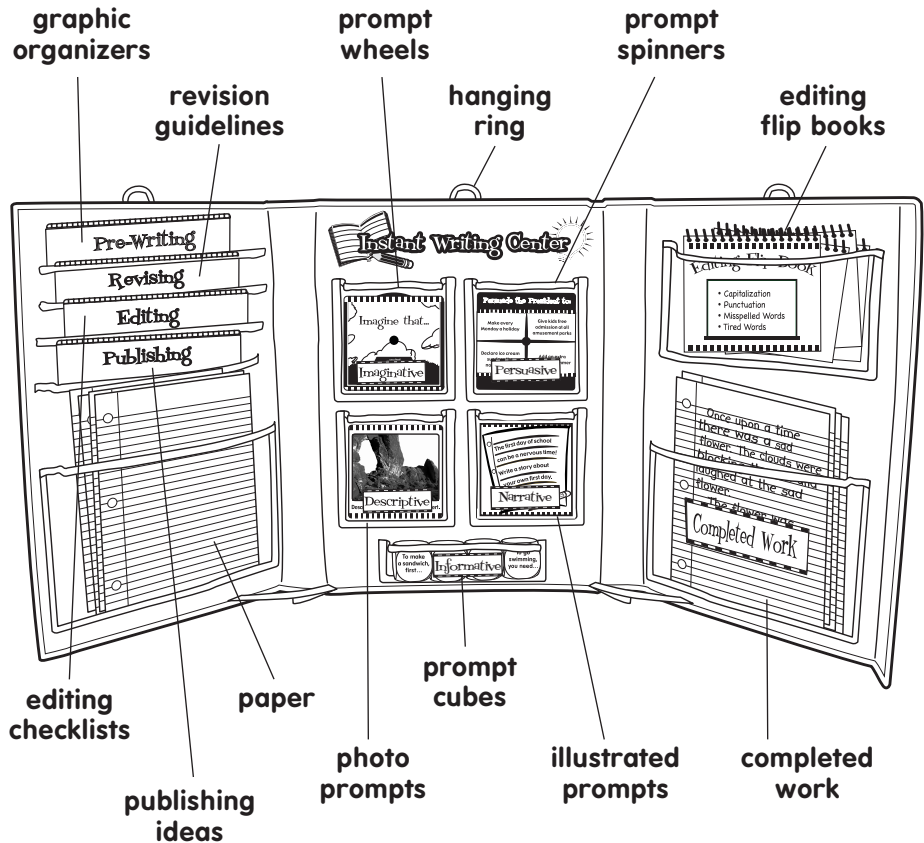
What's Included

- Tri-fold writing center
- 16 photographic descriptive writing prompts
- 16 illustrated narrative writing prompts
- 16 persuasive writing prompts (on 4 spinners)
- 16 imaginative writing prompts (on 4 wheels)
- 16 informative writing prompts (on 4 giant foam cubes)
- 5 graphic organizers
- 5 guidelines for self-review and revision
- 5 editing checklists
- 5 publishing idea cards
- 4 editing flip books covering spelling, punctuation, word choice and more

Before You Begin

Setting up the Instant Writing Center is a breeze!

- Open the panels and stand the center on a table or desk, or unfasten the straps at the bottom and use the rings to hang the center flat on a wall.
- Unwrap the cards, prompt cubes and other pieces and place them in the storage pockets as shown.
- Insert the title cards in the holders on the pockets.
- Place a supply of paper (not included) in the extra pocket. You might also want to provide support materials such as a children's dictionary and thesaurus, red pens for editing, pencil sharpeners and erasers, plus glue, markers, scissors and other craft materials to help children publish their work.



Using the Center

The Instant Writing Center is ideal for individual or whole-class writing activities, such as journal writing or writer's workshops. You may invite each student to choose a different prompt within a particular writing style, or ask a volunteer to select one prompt for the entire class to work on.

Before students begin, discuss the type of writing you have selected. (Descriptions of each type can be found on page 4 of this guide.) What is the purpose of this type of writing? (To entertain, to inform, to persuade, and so on.) Remind students of any specific aspects of writing you want them to practice, such as using strong openings and closings. Then, let the writing process begin!

Pre-Writing

Encourage students to begin by brainstorming ideas about their topics. Prompt students to choose a suitable graphic organizer to help them plan their writing.

Drafting, Writing and Revising

Students can use the prompts independently, or two or three children can write collaboratively as a team. Remind students that most writers begin with a draft and then proceed through one or more revisions until they are satisfied with the content, organization and style. Each revision guidelines card focuses on the important aspects of a specific type of writing, so prompt students to follow the appropriate guidelines to strengthen their work.

Editing

Urge students to check their own work, using the editing checklist, or have students work with partners to edit each other's writing. Point out that the *Editing Flip Books* are easy-to-use resources for checking mechanics such as spelling, grammar, punctuation, capitalization and word selection.

Publishing

Provide construction paper, scissors, glue, markers and other craft materials. Invite each student to choose one of the suggestions from the publishing idea cards and use it to put a final piece of work into an appealing format. Display the completed projects in the classroom, or keep them in student portfolios. The projects make terrific tools for reviewing students' progress with them and their parents.

Types of Writing

Prompts for five different types of writing are included in this set.

Descriptive Writing (photo prompts)

Descriptive writers use words to create vivid images in the reader's mind. Nonfiction articles, histories and biographies often include descriptions of places, people or events. Descriptions are also used to introduce characters and settings in works of fiction. Involving the senses makes descriptive writing interesting.

Narrative Writing (illustrated prompts)

In narrative writing, the author tells about a personal experience. The purpose can be to entertain or to inform, or can even be a part of a persuasive argument. Narrative writing may include descriptions of people, places and events as well as the author's thoughts and emotions. Examples include letters to friends, personal diaries and journal entries.

Informative Writing (giant foam cubes)

Informative writing communicates facts, directions or other information on specific topics. Examples of informative writing include menus and recipes, newspaper articles, assembly instructions, biographies, guides, textbooks and so on.

Imaginative Writing (wheels)

Imaginative writing includes fictional stories such as fairy tales, mysteries and science fiction that include characters, settings, events and conclusions. It is written to entertain or to amuse. Other examples of imaginative writing include jokes, riddles and comic strips.

Persuasive Writing (spinners)

Persuasive writing attempts to convince readers to take some action, purchase something or change their ideas. Advertisements, travel brochures and opinion pieces are examples of persuasive writing. Persuasive writing usually expresses an opinion and provides facts and examples to support it.