



30 Fun Activities for Teaching Writing at Home

BY TINA WHEELER

Teaching kids how to write can be difficult in the best of circumstances. It can be hard. It can be frustrating. It can cause you and students to want to pull your hair out.

Fortunately for you and your hair, here is a list of 30 fun activities you can use to teach writing. These can be used by parents at home, or by teachers needing to fill up their online assignment list to students. Grade levels are suggested for each, but most activities can have their difficulty levels adjusted up or down to fit whatever level you need. Time to get writing!

1. Friendly Letter: Grades K-12

Teach the parts of a letter (date, salutation [Dear Sally,], body, closing [Your friend,], and signature). Then, have your child actually write a letter to a real person! You can write to a relative you haven't seen in a long time, a friend that you miss, or to an acquaintance you wish to get to know better. Continue the learning by giving a mini lesson on how to address a letter, then pop it in the mailbox!

2. Opinion Writing: Grades 3-12

Kids have opinions just like adults, and they can be just as passionate. Select a comparison, such as popsicles versus lollipops, chips versus popcorn, or cookies versus cake, and have your child write out their preference. They can provide opinion statements to back up their choices.

3. Story Starters: Grades 4-8

Have some fun writing short stories. Have your kiddo make them funny, dramatic, or zany. He or she can take the stories in any direction! Click the link below to find a great printable story starter writing activity.

<https://www.teachervision.com/word-processing/story-starters>

4. Journal: Grades K-12

Journal writing can be a great way to practice writing daily. In fact, many teachers do this in the classroom, so a lot of kids are already somewhat familiar with this format. Journal writing can be done as a response to a prompt (Write about your favorite food.), or a simple entry about how the day is going. The best part about journal writing is that there is no wrong way to do it!

5. Poetry: Grades 5-8

Writing can take many different forms, so why not try a few of them out? Poetry, though not loved by all children, is a favorite for many students. Have your kiddo think about something he or she really likes, then write a poem about it. Use any form of poetry, or experiment with writing poems in multiple formats.

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6. Shared Writing: Grades K-12

Shared writing is just what it sounds like: writing that is shared by more than one writer. Kids and parents can write text together, with both providing contributions to compose the passage. Visit the page in the link below to learn more about shared writing and the benefits it can bring.

<https://www.teachervision.com/shared-writing>

7. Shopping List: Grades K-4

Writing a list might seem simple, but it can be great practice! Have your child write down what you need to pick up in the store. To make this activity a bit more challenging, have your child organize the list into various categories, such as produce, meats, household items, or pantry items.

“Writing a list might seem simple, but it can be great practice!”

8. Rewrite the Ending: Grades K-12

Have you ever read a story or book, and you hated the ending? Well, ask your child this question, and if he or she says yes, try this activity out. Select a story and rewrite the ending. It should make sense with the plot and characters of the story but still be a significant change.

9. Make Your Own Holiday: Grades 2-6

Who doesn't love holidays? What if you could create your own? Using the printable found after clicking the link below, you can! Students will write about their current favorite holiday, but then have a chance to create a brand new one of their own making. Fun!

<https://www.teachervision.com/holidays/make-your-own-holiday>

10. Write Directions: Grades 5-12

Reading directions is a skill everyone needs to learn, and one of the best ways to learn to read directions is to write them. Have your child write directions on how to get from one place to another. This could be driving directions from one town to another, directions on how to walk from your house to the park, or directions that combine various modes of transportation. Be sure your kiddo is specific, uses details, and provides lots of direction words. Add a map if he or she is artistically inclined.

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11. Around the House: Grades 4-12

Students enjoy learning about figurative language, so why not send them on a “scavenger hunt” throughout the house to find some? Have them look for things in their home they can transform into similes, metaphors, personification, alliteration, hyperbole, onomatopoeia, or even rhyme and repetition. Write a single sentence or a full paragraph.

12. Picture Writing: Grades K-12

Select a photograph and have your child write a response. The sky’s the limit for this one: kids can write about what is going on in the picture, how it makes them feel, or even a fictional story related to the photo.

13. Article Writing: Grades 7-12

Though similar to Picture Writing, this type of writing uses a newspaper picture and a journalistic flair. Using any picture from a newspaper, have your child write an article that goes with it. The article can be funny or serious, but it must make sense with the picture.

14. Student Proofreading: Grades 3-12

Use the checklist found at the link below to help teach grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling. Turn your child into the “teacher” and let him or her help correct some errors!

<https://www.teachervision.com/editing/student-proofreading-checklist>

15. Write a Book: Grades K-2

Writing a book seems so awesome, why not help your little one make one? Staple, tape, or glue some pages together, then have your child write a story, illustrate the pages, and then read it to you!

16. My Friend Writing: Grades 1-3

A guide can be found at the link below to help with this project. Your child can write a description about a friend, then turn it into a paragraph.

<https://www.teachervision.com/my-friend-writing-printable>

17. Texting: Grades 5-12

Have your child select two characters, from a book, movie, or real life. Next, have them create a discussion the two might have via text. Include emojis for more fun!

18. Daily Plan: Grades 3-12

Have your child create a schedule for at-home time. Under each time slot, he or she can write a detailed description of the event/chore/action. Maybe this will come in handy!

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19. Review Writing: Grades 6-8

Check out some real reviews from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Find some good examples, then have your child write a review of a book or an item your family has recently purchased. You might even be able to post it!

20. Pet Persuasion: Grades 3-8

Ask your child to think about his or her favorite pet. Now, pretend that your child wants to get this pet, but he or she first has to convince Mom or Dad. Have your child write a persuasive argument in favor of getting this pet. (I hope this doesn't result in too many new pet purchases!)

21. Instruction Manual: Grades 6-12

Have your child to create an instructional manual for something he or she is good at doing, such as sweeping the floor, brushing teeth, or riding a bike. Any task will work! Model this after any instructional manuals you may have around the house. If you don't have any, look for some on the internet.

22. Silly Sentences: Grades K-12

Kids of all ages can enjoy this writing activity. Have kids write silly sentences. The sentences should all have a subject and a predicate, but other than that, sentences can say just about anything! The baby ran the race. The dog drove to work. The trees jumped up and down. What will your silly sentences say?

“Have your child write a review of a book or an item your family has recently purchased. You might even be able to post it!”

23. ABC Book: K-12

This may seem like it's only for younger kids, but with a little modification, older kids can complete this project as well. Have your child select a theme, such as animals, and then write and illustrate one page for each letter of the alphabet. To make it more challenging, choose a more difficult topic and/or have your child write a sentence or paragraph for each letter.

24. How-To Guide: Grades 5-12

Kids love to play video games, am I right? Put this enjoyment of gaming to use for this activity. Ask your child to write a how-to guide for anything related to a video

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game he or she plays. This can range from a complicated move involving the controller to simply logging on to the system.

25. Be a Journalist: Grades 5-8

Has your child ever thought of becoming a journalist? Even if not, try out this activity, found by clicking the link below. This printable will give guidance on interviewing and writing articles, all basic foundations for becoming a top-notch journalist!

<https://www.teachervision.com/journalism/be-journalist>

26. Sensory Detail Walk: Grades 3-12

Go outside. Take a walk. But take your paper and pencil with you! Take your child on a sensory walk, where he or she writes down things seen, heard, smelled, felt, or even tasted! There are so many possibilities!

27. Design a Board Game: Grades 8-12

This is a great project that can not only last several days, but it can also incorporate a number of other subjects. Have your kiddo design a board game, draw up designs, list descriptions, and write out all the directions on how to play the game. Go one step further, gather some materials, then make the game so you can play it!

28. Building Adjectives: Grades 5-8

The dog ran. The big dog ran. The big brown dog ran. The big brown hairy dog ran. See what I did there? See how many adjectives your child can add while the sentence still makes sense. Use any short starting sentence you wish.

29. Setting Descriptions: Grades 3-12

A setting is the time and place of a story. Pick a setting or make one up. Have your child write a detailed description of the setting. Don't forget to include as many sensory details as possible. Instead of saying, "It was hot," try showing it in a different way: "All the people were waving fans at their faces."

30. Rhyme Time: Grades K-3

Pick out a word and ask your kiddo to write down as many words he or she can that rhymes with the original word. Make it a game to see who can think of more, and limit your time to make it more challenging. Take turns choosing the beginning word.

Many of these activities can be adjusted, modified, or repeated to meet the needs of you and your learners. Did one of these activities spark an idea for a new writing activity? Run with it! The most important thing about teaching kids to write is having them write often. Writing, just like any other skill, requires practice. Even simple practice, but especially fun practice!



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