

## WRITING PROMPTS: WRITTEN BY PAT STREAM

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### **Suggested Uses:**

The writing prompts in this collection are expository prompts. These require the student to write an essay explaining several reasons why they think, feel, or believe something.

Students should be given time to plan before engaging in the writing process. They should be encouraged to use additional paper of their own to complete their expository essays.

The section following the prompts is a selection of worksheets that provide a list of transition words, how to write a “mini-story” to extend an explanation, and the use of a “hook to engage the reader’s interest.”









#### Prompt #4: Why Knights are Irritating to Dragons!

Think about what it would be like to be a dragon! Not only do you breathe fire and collect precious jewels and treasures to keep in your lair (cave), but you also have to deal with those pesky knights! In fact, you find them down-right irritating. Write an essay explaining the top three reasons why knights are irritating to a dragon! Be sure to include specific details that explain and support your reasons. Remember to add a mini-story about a *really* irritating knight to one of your reasons to make it more interesting to your reader and to explain more fully what you mean.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## The Hook!

A hook is the first sentence that you write in the introduction of your paper to get your reader interested in the topic you are going to write about. It can be in the form of a question, or of a statement.

For example, if you were going to write about “Why Knights are Irritating to Dragons”, you might begin like this:

People think that knights are courteous and brave warriors, but I know better!

Or you could begin with a question....

Have you ever wondered how dragons feel about knights and their eternal quest to do battle with them?

A hook makes your readers curious and gives them a purpose for reading your paper!

**Directions: Create 2 hooks for each of the topics below:**

1. Topic: Why an Octopus Would Make a Good Pet

Hook #1: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Hook #2: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Topic: My Favorite Thing to Do

Hook #1: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Hook #2: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Topic: My Best Friend

Hook #1: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Hook #2: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

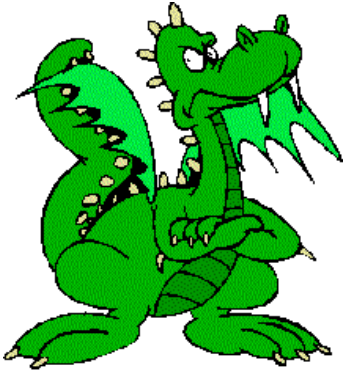
4. Topic: Why Worms Dislike Birds

Hook #1: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Hook #2: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The “Mini-Story!”

Another thing that you can do to make an essay more interesting is to add a “mini-story” to one of your reasons. A mini-story is an example of your reason that “happened to you.” You can start a mini-story by saying “I remember one time when...” or “An example of this happened to me....”

For example, if you were writing your second reason that knights are irritating to dragons, you might add a mini-story like this to it:

Another reason that dragons find knights very irritating is because they are very persistent. This means that they just don't give up. You can breathe fire at them. They just hold up their shields. You can fly away. The knight is sure to follow you. Once they get it in their heads to start a “battle with the dragon” there is no way to get rid of them. I remember one knight who insisted on doing battle with me. I began by telling him politely that I wasn't interested. Did he honor my feelings? Noooooooooooooo. He charged at me on his horse. I stepped aside, having no desire to engage in battle that day. He wheeled around and came right back waving his sword in my face. Finally, I had to breathe fire at him. At this point, his horse, which was smarter than he was, ran for home!

The underlined part of the second reason why knights are irritating is the **mini-story**. When you are writing essays remember to add a mini-story to make your paper even more interesting to your reader.



## Transition Words

Transition words are words that you can use to move the story forward, or backwards in time. Many times people say and then, then, so, or next when they are telling a story aloud. When you are writing, it makes your story, or essay more interesting to read if you use different words besides and then and next.

### Time Sequence Transition Words

first...second...third, finally, last,  
next, still, too, also, besides,  
suddenly, unexpectedly, afterwards,  
as long as, as soon as, at last, before,  
earlier, previously, in the meantime,  
later, meanwhile, now, presently,  
shortly, since, soon, then, when