

# Sides One and Two of Your Writer's Block

## The Writer's Block



### Check Your Six +1 Traits!

- ★ **Organization:** Does the order of your writing make sense?
- ★ **Voice:** Is the person telling the story unique and passionate?
- ★ **Conventions:** Have you proofread your writing?
- ★ **Sentence Fluency:** Does it flow?
- ★ **Ideas:** Is your topic interesting and full of great details?
- ★ **Word Choice:** Are your words juicy and descriptive?
- ★ **Presentation:** Did you use your best handwriting and nice paper?



**If so... you're right on target!**

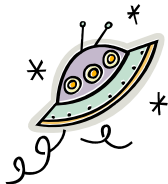
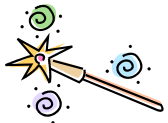
# Sides Three and Four of your Writer's Block

## Need Ideas?

Reach inside the box and pull out an idea or story-starter.

## Get Creative!

Using the same idea or story-starter, write several pieces using difference genres, such as a **fairy tale**, **science fiction**, **adventure**, **biography**, **fantasy**, **comedy**, **mystery** or as a **TV/movie script**. Keep the same characters and plot line, but change the style of your storytelling.



## Perspective

- ★ Who's perspective, or point of view, are you writing your piece from?
- ★ Are you giving a first-hand narrative account?
- ★ Are you writing a creative story?
- ★ Is the story being told by a character or a narrator?
- ★ Are you entertaining the audience or persuading them?
- ★ Are you sticking with facts or are you creating a far-fetched drama?



## Journal prompts for your Writer's Block

<p>What is something you like about yourself?</p>	<p>What is your favorite room in your home and why?</p>	<p>What does it mean to be a good neighbor?</p>
<p>What is your most valuable possession and why?</p>	<p>What is the best advice you've ever received and why?</p>	<p>What would happen if you could fly whenever you wanted? When would you use this ability?</p>
<p>What would happen if there was no TV? Would this be good? Bad? Why?</p>	<p>What would happen if you lived in space? What type of house would you have? What kind of clothing would you wear? What type of food would you eat? How would you travel?</p>	<p>What is something you like about yourself?</p>

<p>What if cows gave root beer instead of milk?</p>	<p>What if all the streets were rivers? What would be different?</p>	<p>What would happen if people never co-operated? Why is it important to co-operate?</p>
<p>What would happen if it really did rain cats and dogs?</p>	<p>What would happen if animals could talk? What are some of the questions you would ask them?</p>	<p>What would happen if you could become invisible whenever you wanted to?</p>
<p>What would happen if everyone wore the same clothes?</p>	<p>What would happen if you threw a piece of trash on the ground? What if everyone did?</p>	<p>What if you could walk up walls and across ceilings?</p>

<p>What would happen if you truly loved your neighbor as yourself? What if everyone did?</p>	<p>What would happen if you grew taller than trees? How would this change your life?</p>	<p>What would happen if children ruled the world?</p>
<p>What would happen if there were no cars, buses, trains, boats or planes?</p>	<p>What if everyone lived under water?</p>	<p>What would happen if you found gold in your backyard?</p>
<p>What would you do if a bully bothered you on your way home from school?</p>	<p>What would you do if you did poorly on a test?</p>	<p>What would you do if a friend borrowed things from you but never returned them?</p>

What would you do if you were the teacher and everyone forgot his or her homework?

What would you do if you were in the middle of the lake and your boat began to leak?

What would you do if your friend had a broken leg? How would you cheer them up?

What would you do if you saw bugs in your salad?

What would you do if you woke up in another country and no one could understand you?

What would you do if you ordered an ice cream cone and you forgot to bring money?

What would you do if your jelly sandwich fell upside down on the floor?

What would you do if only one hot dog is left and neither you nor your best friend have had one?

What would you do if the surprise party was for you but you weren't surprised?

<p>What would you do if you got a present you didn't like?</p>	<p>What would you do if you were at home and your homework was at school?</p>	<p>What would you do if you dropped the cookie jar and it broke?</p>
<p>What would you do if you were invited to two parties on the same day?</p>	<p>What would you do if you promised to feed your pet and you didn't?</p>	<p>What would you do if someone said you did something wrong and you didn't?</p>
<p>What would you do if your new shoes felt fine in the store but now they were hurting you?</p>	<p>What would you do if someone told you a joke you didn't think was funny?</p>	<p>What would you do if an hour before the party you realized you didn't have a gift?</p>

<p>What would you do if a friend comes to your house and his/her mom doesn't know they are there.</p>	<p>If you could have been someone in history, who would it be?</p>	<p>If you could only take 3 people on a trip with you around the world, who would they be and why?</p>
<p>If you could give any gift in the world, what would it be and to whom would you give it to?</p>	<p>If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?</p>	<p>If you received any sum of money as a gift, what would you do with it?</p>
<p>If you were a mouse in your house one evening, what would you see?</p>	<p>If you were lost in the woods and it got dark, what would you do?</p>	<p>If you had to describe yourself as a color, what would it be and why?</p>

<p>What things do you think are beautiful and why?</p>	<p>What do you think courage means?</p>	<p>Do you believe in ghosts? Why or why not?</p>
<p>What kind of animal would you like to be and why?</p>	<p>What are you afraid of? Why?</p>	<p>What is most important to you in a friend?</p>
<p>Describe the best teacher you've ever had.</p>	<p>When might it be hard to be honest?</p>	<p>When it might hurt their feelings, how do you feel about telling your friends the truth?</p>

<p>Do you care what other people think? If yes, why?</p>	<p>Write about your favorite cereal.</p>	<p>What is changing in your life right now?</p>
<p>Describe your favorite clothes.</p>	<p>How do you feel when you are by yourself?</p>	<p>What are your goals for the coming year?</p>
<p>I would like to invent...</p>	<p>If you could trade lives with someone else, who would it be and why?</p>	<p>Describe the most beautiful scene in nature that you can imagine.</p>

<p>Describe your bedroom the way you want it to be.</p>	<p>Think of your favorite place. What do you like about this place? What do you do there? How does it look, smell, and feel? Now write an essay or story describing your favorite place so that your reader will be able to picture it.</p>	<p>Some people prefer dogs as pets, some like cats, and others prefer birds, snakes, fish, rabbits, pigs, horses, and other animals. What is your perfect pet? What does it look like? Is it soft or hard? Does it make any sounds? Now describe your idea of a perfect pet so that your reader can picture it.</p>
<p>Different teachers decorate their classes in different manners. Think of your idea of the perfect classroom. Is it colorful? Does it have desks or tables? What does it look like? How does it smell? Are there any sounds in it? Write an essay or story describing your idea of the perfect classroom.</p>	<p>Each season of the year is beautiful in some way. Think of which season is your favorite: winter, summer, spring or fall. Think of what your town looks like during that season. What does it feel like? Is there a smell or taste to it? Now write an essay or story describing an outdoor scene during your favorite season of the year.</p>	<p>Everyone has a favorite object that they treasure. Think of some object in your room that you really like. It could be a toy, or a doll, a game, a stuffed animal, or a book, but whatever it is, it is special to you. What does it look, feel, smell, and sound like? Now, describe this object to your reader so that he or she will be able to picture it clearly.</p>
<p>Every person has a favorite place to play. Think of your favorite place to play. It may be your backyard, or a play ground, or a nearby woods, or an open field. What does this place look like? What are the sounds you hear there? What does it feel and smell like? Describe your favorite place to play so that your reader can see it without being there.</p>	<p>Almost all houses have kitchens. Some are big and some are tiny. Think of the kitchen at your home. Think of how you might change it to make it even better. What is in it? What does it smell like? Now, describe this perfect kitchen to your reader so that he or she can see it clearly.</p>	<p>There are trees everywhere, even in the middle of big cities. Think of a tree you have seen. What does it look, feel, and sound like? Describe that tree so that your reader can picture it too.</p>

<p>People gather at places like malls, fairgrounds, schools, gymnasiums, sports fields and swimming pools. Think of a place in your town where there are lots of people. How does it look, sound, smell, and feel to be there? Now, describe that crowded place so that your reader can feel as if he or she is there.</p>	<p>Every child enjoys playing on a playground. Think of the playgrounds you have played in. Think of what makes them better. Maybe you've already seen it, but think of what makes the perfect playground. Think of how it looks, sounds, feels, and smells. Now, describe your idea of a perfect playground so that your reader can see it clearly.</p>	<p>Even in the desert it rains sometimes. Think of what the world looks like outside your window when it rains. Think about how it looks, smells, and feels. What sounds do you hear? What does rain taste like? Describe what the world looks like outside a window when it rains.</p>
<p>Alice visits Wonderland in Alice in Wonderland. Wonderland is the land of her dreams. What is the ideal place for you? What place do you dream about? What does it look like? Does it have a smell? How does it feel? Do you hear sounds there? Describe the ideal place of your dreams in such a way that the reader can picture it, too.</p>	<p>People live in houses, apartments, tents, cabins, trailers, and other buildings. Where do you live? Think of your ideal living place. Perhaps it's where you live now. What does it look like? Does it have a smell? Describe your ideal living place or the place where you live so that your reader can picture it clearly.</p>	<p>Imagine that someone gave you a very special ring. What does this ring look like as it sits on your finger? How does it feel? Is it heavy? Is there a taste to it? How does it sound if you rap it on the desk? Does it smell? Describe this ring down to the last detail so that your reader can picture it on your hand.</p>
<p>We all get angry at times, but different people react in different ways. Some people show their anger openly, and some hide it within themselves. Explain and describe what you do when you get mad.</p>	<p>Rules are important in our daily lives. We have rules for driving, rules for studying, and even rules for playing. Think about the rules you have in your school. What three rules should every school have? Write an essay explaining to the reader the three rules you selected.</p>	<p>Suppose you have been appointed to a neighborhood improvement committee. You must make recommendations on ways to make your neighborhood a better place to live. Think about some changes you would like to make in your neighborhood. Write an essay to inform your reader of changes you would recommend to improve your neighborhood and why these changes are important.</p>

<p>Everyone has something or someone that is important to him/her. Pick an object, a person, or a feeling that is important to you and explain why it is so important in your life.</p>	<p>We are increasingly worried about our environment. Write an essay explaining about one environmental problem you think is important and propose some possible solutions to the problem.</p>	<p>If you had a time machine and could go to any time in the past or future, where you go? Explain why you chose that particular time.</p>
<p>In school, students must read classic books that the teacher picks. Some students do not like to be told what to read. They would rather pick their own books. Think of some reasons why your teachers require these classic books that are so famous. Think of some that your teacher has read to you or that you have read yourself. Now, write an essay explaining why you think the teachers insist that students read and listen to the famous classics.</p>	<p>Imagine that you had no TV or radio for one week. Think of one activity that you would like to do instead to keep you busy and out of trouble. Write an essay or story explaining one activity to replace the TV and radio for that week.</p>	<p>Suppose you had invented a time machine. Write a story about what you did with it.</p>
<p>Write to tell of a day when you were the teacher. What did you do?</p>	<p>Write a story about trading places with your favorite TV, movie, or rock star.</p>	<p>One day a spaceship lands on the playground of your school . . .</p>

<p>Your shoe must have a story to tell. Tell it.</p>	<p>Your class grew plants as a science project. One day you looked at your plant and saw something really strange had grown there.</p>	<p>Write a story about what it would be like if you woke up one morning with wings.</p>
<p>On your birthday, a strange-looking lady came to your door and handed you a wrapped present. You rattled it. It made a noise. Write a story about this present.</p>	<p>Your teacher one day announced that your class was going on a wonderful field trip. Write a story about this field trip. In your story, you can have your class go anywhere you wish.</p>	<p>One day, as you were petting and talking to your friend's dog, it answered back! Write a story about this.</p>
<p>Write a story about yourself as a hero. What did you do to become a hero? Tell your story.</p>	<p>As you walked down the hallway at school, you heard some strange music coming from the custodian's closet. What was it? Write a story about it.</p>	<p>Tell a story about children who live in a world where there is no such thing as television, computers, or electronic games.</p>

<p>A distant relative bequeathed you a strange ring. As you put this ring on, you discover that it has strange powers. What does it look like? What does it do? Tell a story about this ring.</p>	<p>The teacher comes into the room and places a bag on her desk then leaves. The bag moves and wriggles. Write a story about what is in the paper bag.</p>	<p>Every day you pass a door. It's always closed and locked. One day, as you pass, you notice that the door is open. You step inside. Write a story about what was on the other side of that door.</p>
<p>Imagine you woke up one morning and found that you had switched places with a dog or a cat. Think what it would be like. What would you do? Write a story of your day as a dog or a cat.</p>	<p>What if you had a personal genie who would grant your every wish? What would your life be like? Think of some of the details. Write a story about having a personal genie.</p>	<p>Imagine one morning there's a knock at your front door. You open the door, and to your great surprise, you find an alien standing there. What do you do? What does it look like? Write a story about your encounter with this alien.</p>
<p>On your way to school one morning you see a huge truck speeding down the road. Suddenly, the back door of the truck opens and a large, mysterious box falls off the back of the truck. It sits there in the road. What is in the box? What do you do? Write a story about this mysterious box.</p>	<p>One day you are sitting under a large tree. An acorn hits you on the head, and you look up. There, on the branch above you sits a squirrel, laughing at you. The squirrel then looks you square in the eye, begins to talk to you, and asks you to return its acorn. What would you do? What would happen if you encountered a talking squirrel? Write a story about the experience.</p>	<p>A little old lady gave you and a friend some magical glitter and told you to sprinkle it on your hair and something special would happen. What happened when you tried it? Write a story about this mysterious magical glitter.</p>

<p>One day you and your friends walked up to an old, seemingly abandoned house. You couldn't see inside due to the dust and cobwebs on the windows. You decide to see if the door is locked. You try the knob, and it turns. The door creaks open as if it has not opened in years . . . What happens next? What do you find? What do you and your friend do? Write a story about entering that old, seemingly abandoned house.</p>	<p>Imagine a city project to have every school student do some hours of community service as a part of the required curriculum. What would you choose to do? What do you think it would be like? What people might you meet? What would you be doing to help?</p>	<p>Your principal has asked you to suggest one way of improving your school to make it a better place for students. Think about the changes that are needed at your school. Pick one change you feel would really make a difference. Write an essay to convince your principal that your idea is one that should be adopted.</p>
<p>Your teacher has asked for suggestions on a place to visit for a field trip. Where would you like to go? Now write to convince your reader to adopt your suggestion.</p>	<p>Some things are taught in school that students do not think should be taught. Think of one thing you are required to learn in school that you do not think should be included in the curriculum. Now, write an essay to convince your teachers to abandon that part of the curriculum.</p>	<p>Some schools have graduation ceremonies in the fifth and eighth grade before students have completed their education. What do you think of this? Should students have graduation ceremonies before they finish all of their education or not? Think of some reasons to support your opinion. Now, write an essay to convince the reader of your point of view.</p>
<p>Your local TV station is going to hire a student reporter for the evening news program, and you would like the job. Think about your local evening news program and why you should be chosen as the student reporter. Now write an essay to convince your local TV station to hire you as their student reporter.</p>	<p>Students complain about having too much homework. Do you think this is true? Do your teachers assign too much homework, or do they not give you enough for you to learn the subjects? Write an essay to convince your teachers either to give you more or less homework.</p>	<p>The drama teacher is selecting students to act in a play about famous people. Think of yourself and some of your friends. Think who would be best suited to act in such a play and why they would be good at it. Now write an essay to convince the drama teacher to use that person in a play.</p>

A good friend of yours is thinking of moving to your town. Think of some attributes of your town that would appeal to your friend. Now write an essay to convince your friend to move to your town.

If your school is going to grant your grade level one privilege that other grades in your school will not have, what should that privilege be? Think of one privilege that you would like to have that you do not have now. Think why your class should be granted this privilege. Write an essay to convince the administrators of your school to grant this privilege to your class for the rest of the year.

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