

Gorman Learning Center Writing Program
Grade 2

Each prompt has a code. For example, the first narrative prompt code is N2A. Please record the proper code on your essay to identify the chosen prompt when submitting it to the Writing Program. The top corner of the paper should include the following information:

Student Name
Teacher (IST) Name
Date
Grade Level
Prompt Code

Note: Please have second graders handwrite their prompts, and encourage them to write as much as they can themselves. (We discourage submitting student-dictated prompts written out by a parent or teacher.)

Most prompts have examples; however, please feel free to encourage your student to respond to the prompt in her or his own unique way.

Narrative (5 total)

N2A: *Write a story about a rainy day adventure.*

Write a story about two children on a wet, rainy day. Use your imagination to write about their exciting and fun adventures during the day.

Examples: What are some fun things the children do when it rains? Do they play outside? What games will they play in the rain? What are some indoor games they will play?

N2B: *Write a story about a very good or a very bad day.*

Read Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No-Good, Very Bad Day, or any book that describes one day for one character. Write a story about a bad day or a good day that happened to you. If it was a bad day, write about the things that went wrong from the time you woke up to the time you went to bed. If it was a good day, write about all the good things that happened from the time you woke up to the time you went to bed.

Examples for a bad day: Did you get up late? Did you forget some homework? Did you want to spend time with a friend but he or she was sick? Did something make you feel angry or sad?

Examples for a good day: Did you win something? Did you get a surprise visit from someone you like? Did you do well on some school work? Did you do a favorite activity or go to a favorite place?

N2C: *Write a story about a character who has to put up with something he or she doesn't like.*

Create a character who has a really strong dislike. Write a story where your character has to experience the thing he or she doesn't like.

Examples: Does your character hate to eat hamburgers? What if he or she was invited over to a friend's house, and they were serving hamburgers? Does your character hate to swim? Write about a swim class that your character has to go to. Does your character hate flying on a plane? Write about a plane trip that your character has to go on. What does your character do or learn from this experience?

N2D: *Write about a time you went to a new place.*

Write about what you saw, what you did, and what you learned when you went to a place where you had never been before.

Examples: Did you go on a trip with a friend or relative? Did you visit someone in a different town or city or country? Did you go to a museum? What did you do there? Use your senses to describe the place. (What did the place look like? What did it smell like? What did it sound like? Did you eat something new? What did it taste like? Did you touch something new? What did it feel like?)

N2E: *Write about the differences between your life and the childhood of a grown-up you know.*

Choose a grown-up you know—maybe one of your parents, grandparents or guardians. Write about how your daily life differs from his or hers when he or she was your age. Interview the person. (Ask him or her questions to find out how your life is different.) Choose three or four things about your daily life and three or four things about his or hers, and write about how they are different.

Examples of questions to ask: Where did you live when you were my age? Did you have chores when you were my age? Did you play video games when you were my age? Did you have any brothers and sisters when you were my age? (What other questions can you think of?)

Letter Writing (5 total)

LW2A: *Write a letter to an animal.*

Think of an animal you would like to know more about. What would you most like to know about that animal? Imagine that the animal could talk and write back to answer any questions you have. Then, write a letter to that animal. Introduce yourself and let the animal know why you are writing, then ask any questions you have for the animal!

LW2B: *Write a letter to your favorite author about your favorite book.*

What is your favorite book, and why? Reread the book. After you've finished, write a letter to the author telling what you liked best about the book and why.

LW2C: *Write a letter to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., telling him about the world of today.*

Once you've learned about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his dream, write him a letter about the world we live in today. Do you think his dream has come true? What do you think we can do to help make his dream come true?

LW2D: *Write a letter to a friend or relative who is far away.*

Think of a friend or relative who lives far away. Perhaps it is a favorite aunt or uncle, or a friend who used to live next door but moved to another state. Write him or her a letter. What do you think your friend or relative would want to know about what has been happening in your life? What do you want to know about what is happening in his or her life?

LW2E: *Write a letter to a historical figure.*

Pick a historical figure and write a letter to him or her. First, find out information about the person in a book or on the Internet. Then, with that information in mind, write the letter. In your letter, tell the historical figure what you like about him or her. Ask questions, or tell him or her about your own life.

Example: George Washington Carver found more than 300 ways to use peanuts. To name a few, he made soap, ink, flour, and paint from peanuts. Read a book or look up information about Mr. Carver on the Internet to learn more about his work with peanuts. Write a letter to Mr. Carver about some of the products he made that you use today and how you use them. Include any questions you may have for Mr. Carver.