

Gorman Learning Center Writing Program Grade 3

Each prompt has a code. For example, the first narrative prompt code is N3A. 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

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

Narrative (3 total)

N3A: *Write about a problem you once had and how you solved it.*

Choose a problem you had to deal with. Describe what you did to solve the problem. Write what solutions you tried, what challenges you had, and what finally worked. You may also want to write about what you learned from solving the problem.

Examples: Did you have an argument with a brother or sister? How did you resolve the argument? Did you have a problem learning to ride a bike? Did you have a problem learning to swim? How were you able to learn?

N3B: *Write a story about best friends going on an adventure.*

Make up a few friends and choose an adventure for them to go on together. Describe the different things that happen to them. The adventure can be fantasy or realistic, but remember to make it so the reader can understand it.

Examples: Do the friends take a trip somewhere? Do they see strange or unusual things? Use lots of details as you write the story, to make the story exciting for the reader.

N3C: *Write a story about a child with a physical disability.*

Write a story about a child your age with a physical disability. In your story, describe his or her friendship with another child your age.

Examples: How did the two children meet? What are the children like? What are some fun experiences they have together? What do they learn from each other?

Expository/Descriptive (3 total)

E3A: *Write a description of your community.*

Choose at least three of the places in your community. Describe them using all five senses: sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch.

Examples: What does it smell like when you walk by the flower shop? What does it taste like when you eat at the bakery? What does it sound like when you listen to the birds in the park?

E3B: *Write a description of a mystery food.*

Choose a kind of food (such as an apple or a chocolate bar) and describe it without using its name in your description. Using the five senses, try to describe it in so much detail that your reader will be able to tell what it is without your naming it. Write its name upside down on the back side of the paper, so that the reader can see if she or he got it right.

E3C: *Write about an animal or plant that is beneficial to its environment.*

Choose an organism (a living thing such as a plant or animal) and write about how it is important or helpful to its environment. You can read about the organism to learn more about it, and you can also give your own reasons.

Examples: Worms added to the soil of a garden help to enrich the soil. Bats are beneficial because they eat flying bugs and mosquitoes. Mushrooms help to decompose dead trees and return their nutrients to the soil.

Letter Writing (4 total)

LW3A: *Write a formal letter.*

Imagine that a toy company is looking for children to create a new toy. Create your own toy, and then write a letter to the toy company in which you describe and illustrate the toy. Be sure to start the letter by explaining why you are writing (because you have an idea for a toy for them), and then explain why they should consider making your new invention.

LW3B: *Write a persuasive personal letter.*

Imagine that you have just read a book or seen a movie, T.V. show, or play that you really liked. However, your best friend says that he or she doesn't want to read or see it. Write a letter encouraging your best friend to change his or her mind. For what reasons do you think your friend should see it? How will you convince your friend in your letter?

LW3C: *Write an invitation.*

Choose an occasion to celebrate and pretend that you are having a party (or plan a real party!). Create an invitation to send to all of your friends. Include all of the details your guests will need, such as time, place, and what to bring. Be sure to think of anything that your friends will want to know about the party and include it in the invitation.

LW3D: *Write a thank-you note.*

Write a thank-you note to a relative or family friend who has just sent you a special gift (real or imagined). In your thank-you note, be sure to show your appreciation and to explain what you enjoy about the gift. What else will you include in the letter? What would your relative or friend want to know?

Book Review (1 total)

For ideas on books to read and what you might include in your book review, be sure to check out the new “Reader’s Guide to Book Reviews” on the Gorman Writing Program website!

BR3A: *Write a book review.*

Imagine that a children’s magazine has asked you to be their book reviewer. Your job is to write about a book you have read. Give a brief summary of what the book is about. Then, write about your thoughts on the book: Do you like the book? Why or why not? Do you think other people should read the book? Why or why not? For what ages would you recommend the book? Are there people with specific interests who would particularly like the book? What else do you want people to know about the book before they read it? Make sure you organize your review into paragraphs.