



Grade 2 Informational Writing Guide

Student Pages for Print or Projection

SECTION 6: Authentic Writing Tasks

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Name: _____

ANALYZING PROMPTS (1)

You've been invited to a birthday party! Write about the games you'll play and foods you'll eat at this special gathering.

GENRE: _____

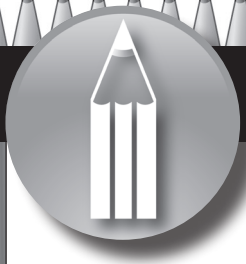
Prewriting Framework:

TOPIC: _____

MAIN IDEA #1: _____

MAIN IDEA #2: _____





Student Page

Name: _____

ANALYZING PROMPTS (2)

Think about a relative you really like. Write an essay describing two things you enjoy doing together.

GENRE: _____

Prewriting Framework:

TOPIC: _____

MAIN IDEA #1: _____

MAIN IDEA #2: _____





Name: _____

ANALYZING PROMPTS (3)

Going to the beach is a great summer outing. Write a piece telling about what you like best about the sand and the water.

GENRE: _____

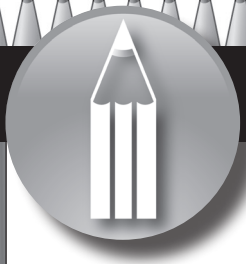
Prewriting Framework:

TOPIC: _____

MAIN REASON #1: _____

MAIN REASON #2: _____





Student Page

Name: _____

ANALYZING PROMPTS (4)

Most schools have a playground. Write an essay explaining two things you enjoy doing at the playground.

GENRE: _____

Prewriting Framework:

TOPIC: _____

MAIN REASON #1: _____

MAIN REASON #2: _____





Name: _____

ANALYZING PROMPTS (5)

Write about a sport you like to play. Tell about the rules of the game and the equipment needed to play this sport.

GENRE: _____

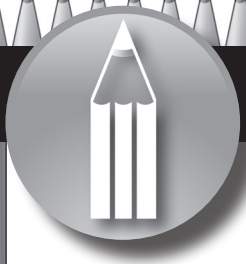
Prewriting Framework:

TOPIC: _____

MAIN IDEA #1: _____

MAIN IDEA #2: _____





Student Page

Name: _____

ANALYZING PROMPTS (6)

There are many kinds of interesting mammals in the world. Write a text about a mammal. Include details about this creature's appearance, habitat, and behavior.

GENRE: _____

Prewriting Framework:

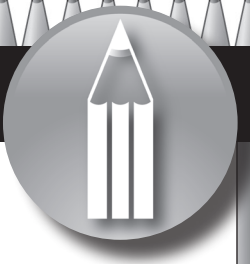
TOPIC: _____

MAIN IDEA #1: _____

MAIN IDEA #2: _____

MAIN IDEA #3: _____





Name: _____

ANALYZING PROMPTS (7)

There are many different habitats in the world. There are jungles, grasslands, woodlands, seashores, rain forests, deserts, and more. Select a habitat and write a report that describes its landscape and the wildlife.

GENRE: _____

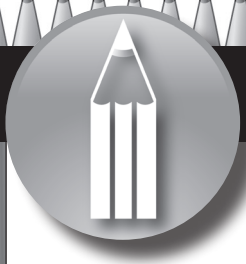
Prewriting Framework:

TOPIC: _____

MAIN IDEA #1: _____

MAIN IDEA #2: _____





Student Page

Name: _____

ANALYZING PROMPTS (8)

What is your favorite season? Write about the weather and the outdoor activities that you think make this season the best one of all!

GENRE: _____

Prewriting Framework:

TOPIC: _____

MAIN REASON #1: _____

MAIN REASON #2: _____





Name: _____

ANALYZING PROMPTS (9)

Every day there are people in the world who work hard to help others. Write a report that describes two people who help others. They might be someone you know, or someone you don't know. Be sure to include who they help and the ways they help others.

GENRE: _____

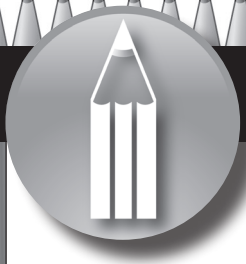
Prewriting Framework:

TOPIC: _____

MAIN IDEA #1: _____

MAIN IDEA #2: _____





Student Page

Name: _____

ANALYZING PROMPTS (10)

Think about the many books you've read. You may have read the book on your own, or someone may have read it to you. Write about two books that you think are the best. Be sure to explain what each book is about and explain what you liked about it.

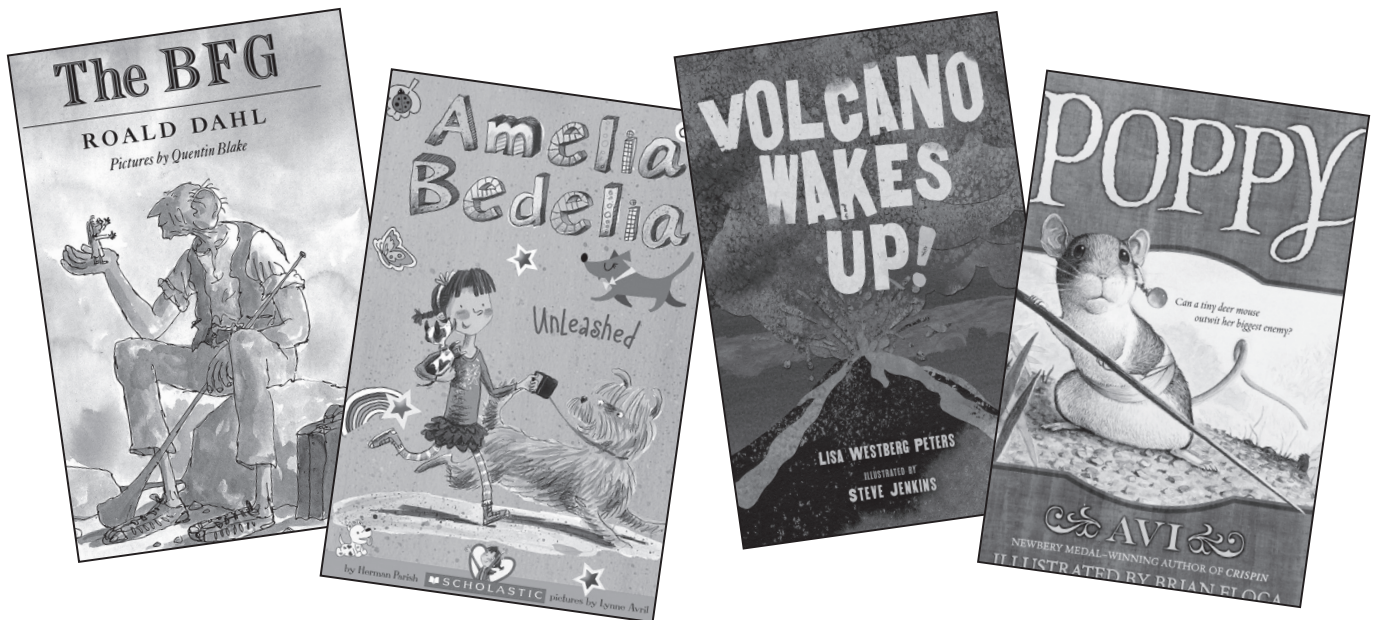
GENRE: _____

Prewriting Framework:

TOPIC: _____

MAIN REASON #1: _____

MAIN REASON #2: _____





Name: _____

ANALYZING PROMPTS (11)

Staying healthy is important. Write an essay describing two things you can do to help stay healthy. Be sure to include plenty of details so your reader will know exactly what to do!

GENRE: _____

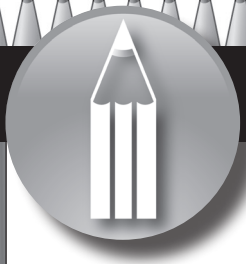
Prewriting Framework:

TOPIC: _____

MAIN IDEA #1: _____

MAIN IDEA #2: _____





Student Page

Name: _____

ANALYZING PROMPTS (12)

Think of all of the pets a child could have. Pick a pet and write a report about that pet. Be sure to include the supplies you'd need for this pet, and the ways you'd need to care for it. Then, on another paper draw a detailed illustration of what this pet looks like.

GENRE: _____

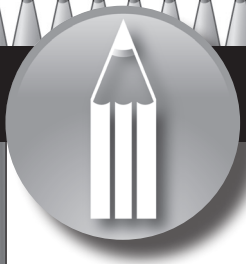
Prewriting Framework:

TOPIC: _____

MAIN IDEA #1: _____

MAIN IDEA #2: _____





Student Page

Name: _____

TEMPLATE FOR INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH

Write your introduction paragraph. It must include your topic and main ideas. Use informational verbs.

Informational Verbs

- learn about • understand
- discover • explore • examine
- uncover • find out • focus on
- remember

Sentence Starters for your Introduction:

Let's discuss the _____ (*main idea/reason*)
and explain _____ (*main ideas/reasons*).

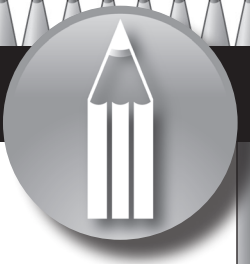
Have you ever wondered about _____?

Are you interested in _____?

We'll explore _____.

Let's look closely at _____.

We'll examine _____.



Name: _____

TEMPLATE FOR BODY PARAGRAPH(S)

Write your body paragraph(s) with details that support the main idea or main reason. To help you focus, underline your main idea sentence and write a “blurb” in the margin. Be sure that each detail is in a separate sentence and use “What does it look like? Why is it important?”

Sentence Starters for your Body Paragraphs:

Just imagine how _____.

Wouldn't you love _____?

You will surely understand why _____.

Do you believe _____?

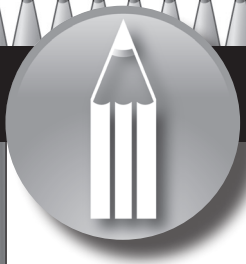
It is exciting to _____.

If you think about it _____.

Let's think about how _____.

Let's look closely at _____.

If you want _____.



Student Page

Name: _____

TEMPLATE FOR CONCLUSION PARAGRAPH(S)

Write your conclusion paragraph(s) by restating the main ideas or main reasons and providing one last statement that sums it all up. Use definitive words and phrases.

Sentence Starters for Restating your Main Ideas/Reasons:

- Are you convinced _____?
- Isn't it interesting to learn about _____?
- The only question left is _____?
- If you've ever dreamed of _____.

Sentence Starters for your Last Statement:

After all, _____.

Without a doubt, _____.

It is truly _____.

It is clear that _____.

Definitive Words and Phrases

Without a doubt	After all
For sure	Surely
Clearly	Truly
Certainly	Definitely
Absolutely	



Name: _____

A NONFICTION BOOK REPORT

Remember how you can turn questions into responses by repeating part of the question in your answer? The questions below will help you think about the book you read. Answer each question. Be sure to repeat the important part of the question in your answer. Several have been started for you!

1. What is the title of the book you read?

The title of the book I read was _____.

2. Who was it written by?

_____.

3. What was the topic of your book?

_____.

4. Which main ideas were included by the author?

The author included main ideas such as _____.

_____.

5. What were you surprised to learn?

_____.

_____.

_____.

6. What was the most interesting fact that the author revealed?

_____.

_____.

7. Would you recommend this book? Why?

I'd recommend this book because _____.

_____.

I wouldn't recommend this book because _____.

_____.

To write your report, copy your answers on another paper, in paragraph form.



Student Reference Page

SENTENCE STARTERS FOR RESPONSE TO NON-FICTION TEXT:

- This piece explores _____.
- It was interesting to learn that _____.
- I was surprised to read that _____.
- This made sense because _____.
- The information here makes me _____.
- I learned that _____.
- This is a little like _____.
- This information reminds me of _____.
- What interested me most was _____, because _____.
- The author explains _____.
- I discovered that _____.
- The text discusses _____.
- In my own life I've _____.
- I was impressed by _____.
- After reading this I'll _____.
- I've decided that _____.
- The author points out _____.



Name: _____

A NARRATIVE STORY BOOK REPORT

Remember how you can turn questions into responses by repeating part of the question in your answer? The questions below will help you think about the book you read. Answer each question. Be sure to repeat the important part of the question in your answer. Several have been started for you!

1. What is the title of the book you read?

The title of the book I read was _____.

2. Who was it written by?

_____.

3. Who was the main character in your book?

_____.

4. What was the main character's problem or adventure?

_____ *'s problem/adventure was* _____
(main character's name)

5. What did the main character learn?

_____.

6. What was the most entertaining part of the story?

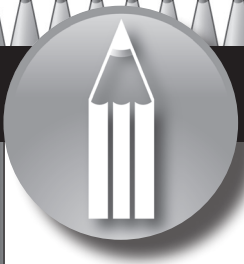
_____.

7. Would you recommend this book? Why?

I'd recommend this book because _____
_____.

I wouldn't recommend this book because _____
_____.

To write your report, copy your answers on another paper, in paragraph form.



Student Reference Page

SENTENCE STARTERS FOR RESPONSE TO NARRATIVE STORIES:

- The title of this story was _____.
- It was written by _____.
- This story is about _____.
(main character)
- The problem was that _____.
- What _____ really wanted was _____.
(main character)
- The adventure began when _____.
- The author had us in suspense when _____.
- The story got exciting when _____.
- I felt _____, when _____.
(nervous, scared, happy, relieved, excited, sad)
- The problem was solved when _____.
- The adventure concluded when _____.
- _____ learned that _____.
(main character)
- This story reminds me of the time when I _____.
- I recommend this story because _____.
- I do not recommend this story because _____.



Name: _____

LETTER TEMPLATE

Dear _____,

Your friend,

P.S. _____



COMMON LITERARY THEMES

- Courage
- Perseverance
- Cooperation
- Compassion
- Honesty
- Kindness
- Loyalty
- Responsibility
- Appreciating what you have
- Forgiveness
- The Value of Hard Work
- Learning from Mistakes
- Determination
- Being True to Yourself
- Importance of Family
- Friendship

Can you think of any others?



Name: _____

EVIDENCE OF THEME CHART

Book Title: _____

Theme: _____

Evidence: _____



Name: _____

NARRATIVE SUMMARIZING FRAMEWORK & TEMPLATE FOR THEME

This story is about _____.

The problem, adventure, or experience was that _____.

_____.

The problem was solved/adventure, experience concluded when _____.

_____.

The theme of this story is _____ .

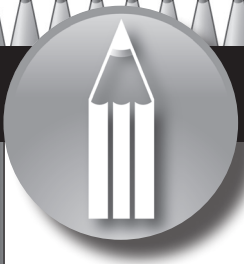
We see this when _____ , the main character, _____ .

This was also demonstrated when _____ .

_____ .

The reader also recognizes the theme in the story when _____

_____ .



FRAMING QUESTIONS FOR READING AND RESPONDING TO LITERATURE

- Who is the **main character**? (*point of view character or protagonist*)
- Where is the **story** set?
- What is the main character's **problem, challenge, or adventure**?
- What does the main character want?
- Where does the author use **suspense**?
- How does the main character **feel** about the situation?
- How does the main character **show** his/her feelings?
- How was the **main event** resolved?
- **What would you do** if faced with a similar challenge or adventure?

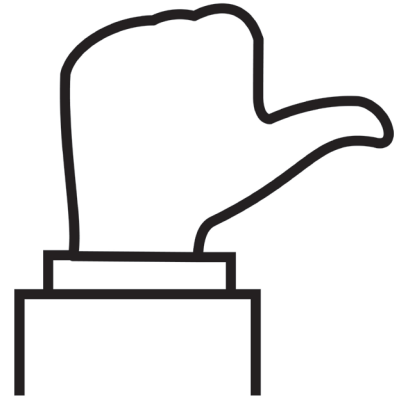


PROS



1

CONS



2

**Sentence Starters for Response to
Narrative Texts**

- In my opinion _____.
- To me it seems that _____.
- From my point of view _____.
- The story problem was _____.
- The way I see it _____.
- The adventure was _____.
- Without a doubt the best part _____.
- The part I liked best was _____.
- The part I enjoyed most was _____.
- It reminded me of the time when _____.

3

**What is your opinion about
this story?**

4





Opinion Cards

I am against _____.

I am opposed to _____.

I disapprove of _____.

I dislike _____.

I am anti-_____.

I am in opposition of _____.

No! I really don't like/want _____.

I do not support _____.

I am for _____.

I am in favor of _____.

I am pro _____.

I approve _____.

I am leaning toward _____.

I prefer _____.

Yes! I like _____.

I support _____.

In my opinion _____.

From my point of view _____.

The way I see it _____.

It made me think of _____.

The most exciting part was _____.

I felt sad when _____.

The funniest scene was _____.

I really loved _____.

My reason for liking this story is _____.

I liked this story because _____.

My reason for disliking this story is _____.

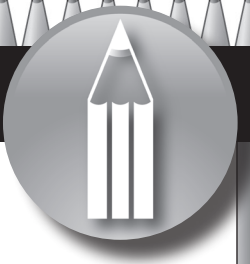
The story made me feel _____.

What I enjoyed most about the story _____.

I would not recommend this book because _____.

I would recommend this book because _____.

Opinion Cards



What was the story problem or
adventure?

5

What was the best part of the story?

6

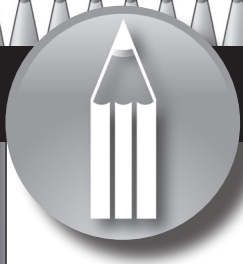
What did the story remind you of
in your own life?

7

What was the most exciting part?

8





Opinion Cards

Without a doubt the best part _____.

The part I liked best was _____.

The part I enjoyed most was _____.

The most exciting part was _____.

To me it seems that _____.

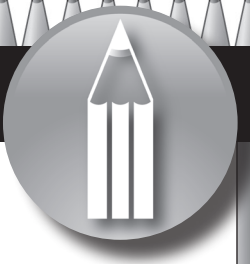
The story problem was _____.

The adventure was _____.

It reminded me of the time when _____.

It made me think of _____.

Opinion Cards



What part of the story made you
feel sad?

9

What scene in the story was
the funniest?

10

What did you love about this story?

11

What is your reason for liking
this story?

12





Opinion Cards

The funniest scene was _____.

I felt sad when _____.

My reason for liking this story is _____.

I liked this story because _____.

I really loved _____.

Opinion Cards



13

What is your reason for disliking this story?

14

How did the story make you feel?

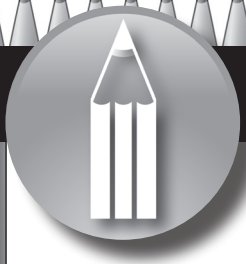
15

What did you enjoy the most about the story?

16

Why would you NOT recommend this book?





Opinion Cards

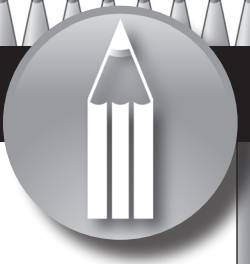
The story made me feel _____.

My reason for disliking this story
is _____.

I disliked this story because _____.

I would NOT recommend this book
because _____.

What I enjoyed most about the
story _____.



What do you prefer?

19

Why would you recommend this book?

17

What do you prefer?

20

Opinion/Point of View Activity Take a Class Poll

- beach vs. amusement park
- chocolate ice cream vs. vanilla ice cream
- school lunch vs. bringing lunch to school
- dogs vs. cats
- winter vs. summer
- movie theater vs. home video
- baseball vs. football
- hot dogs vs. hamburgers
- hide n seek vs. tag

18





Opinion Cards

chocolate ice cream

vs.

vanilla ice cream

because...

- pancakes vs. waffles
- eating out vs. eating at home
- riding bike vs. skate boarding
- apples vs. bananas
- math vs. reading
- narrative books vs. informational books
- lemonade vs. chocolate milk
- spaghetti vs. tacos

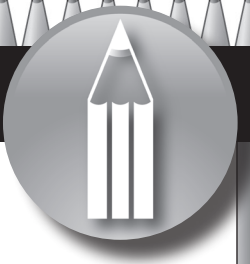
beach

vs.

amusement park

because...

I would recommend this book
because _____.



What do you prefer?

21

What do you prefer?

22

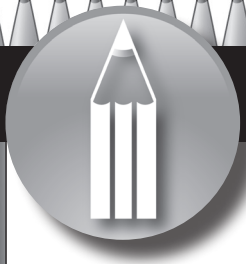
What do you prefer?

23

What do you prefer?

24





Opinion Cards

school lunch

vs.

bringing lunch to school

because...

dogs

vs.

cats

because...

winter

vs.

summer

because...

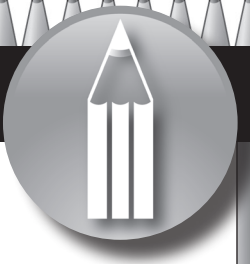
movie theater

vs.

home video

because...

Opinion Cards



What do you prefer?

25

What do you prefer?

26

What do you prefer?

27

What do you prefer?

28





Opinion Cards

baseball

vs.

football

because...

hot dogs

vs.

hamburgers

because...

hide n seek

vs.

tag

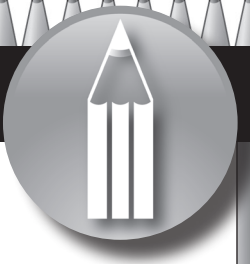
because...

pancakes

vs.

waffles

because...



What do you prefer?

29

What do you prefer?

30

What do you prefer?

31

What do you prefer?

32





Opinion Cards

eating out

vs.

eating at home

because...

riding bike

vs.

skate boarding

because...

apples

vs.

bananas

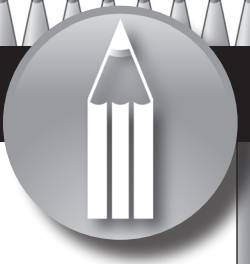
because...

math

vs.

reading

because...



What do you prefer?

33

What do you prefer?

35

Take a position? Pose an issue to the class.

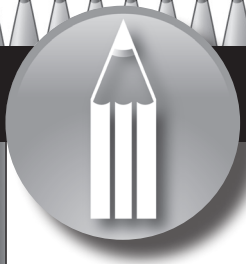
- have a set bedtime?
- limit TV, computer time?
- have an extra recess each day?
- have a class pet?
- be allowed to wear flip-flops?
- have dessert every day?
- have an all-boy or all-girl classroom?
- have gym class daily?
- have homework?
- have school six days a week?

36

What do you prefer?

34





Opinion Cards

narrative books
vs.
informational
books
because...

lemonade
vs.
chocolate milk
because...

Take a position!

spaghetti
vs.
tacos
because...

Opinion Cards



Take a position!

37

Take a position!

38

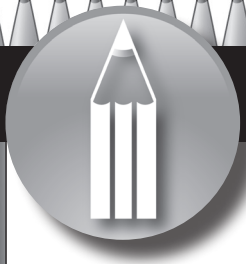
Take a position!

39

Take a position!

40





Opinion Cards

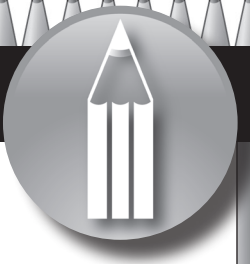
Should we -
have a set bedtime?

Should we -
limit TV or computer
time?

Should we -
have an extra recess
each day?

Should we -
have a class pet?

Opinion Cards



Take a position!

41

Take a position!

42

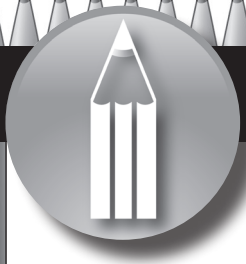
Take a position!

43

Take a position!

44





Opinion Cards

Should we -
be allowed to wear
flip-flops?

Should we -
have dessert all day?

Should we -
have an all-boy or
all-girl classroom?

Should we -
have gym class daily?



Whether positive or negative, it is helpful to have a variety of ways to express opinions. These sentence starters can be used to state the author's position of stance on just about any topic, situation, activity, and issue. Some general phrases are:

What's your Opinion?

- In my opinion _____.
- From my point of view, _____.
- The way I see it, _____.
- I believe that _____.
- Don't you agree that _____?
- I feel that _____.

47

Take a position!

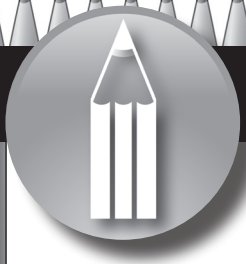
45



Take a position!

48

46



Opinion Cards

Should we -
have an all-boy or all-
girl classroom?

Should we -
have homework?

What's your Opinion?

Should we -
have school six days
a week?