

Visual Learning Activities

for Elementary Kids

Writing an Essay

This activity is designed to help young elementary students get their thoughts on paper, before they start writing. Children have a lot of visual memories that need to be translated to words. Talking things through before writing helps get the creative juices flowing and brings specific memories to the surface. As the thoughts start flowing, have your child write down simple words (nouns and verbs) that will help when it comes time to do the actual writing.



Materials Needed:

3 to 4 Small Pieces of Paper

1 Full Sized (Ruled) Paper

Pencil for Writing

Action:

- Before starting, explain the homework assignment
- Give the child 3 small pieces of paper
- Write one title at top of each page:
 - What I did
 - Where I did it
 - Who I did it with
- Next talk over the topic and ask questions to stir memories
- As your child shares thoughts, have them write *simple words* on the appropriate papers (nouns, verbs, etc.)
- Keep talking and writing until there are enough words, content, for the essay
- Review the words on smaller papers together
- Have child write their essay

Variations: *The older the child, the more advanced the note taking before writing can be. Have your child write words or phrases on papers, notecards or sticky notes. Arrange the words or papers to create visual outlines for more complex writing assignments.*

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