

Writing Prompt Tips

I Can Write Online gives students choice throughout the program. Periodically, however, it is critical that you use an assigned writing prompt in order to assess your students' progress. Below are some ideas that we hope will help you in creating appropriate prompts.

Let the writer draw on personal experiences.

Do not choose or create prompts that require knowledge the student does not have.

Be aware of student feelings.

Avoid prompts that require the writer to share personal thoughts on sensitive topics.

Allow choice of prompts.

You might give 2–3 prompts and have students choose between them. Write prompts that are open-ended, such as “When I’m at home I like....” or “When I’m at school I like.....”.

Offer a prompt that will spark the writer's imagination.

“If I could design our classroom, I would...”

Avoid built-in positives and negatives, such as “I do not like recess because....”

Leave students room to go in their own directions.

