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## TIPS FOR BETTER FORMATIVE WRITING PROMPTS

1

### DEVELOP, NOT DEFEND

Students should be developing their initial ideas through the formative prompt, not summarizing or defending.

2

### OPEN PROMPTS

Good formative writing prompts often feel open-ended, using the word "might" or "could" to help students think critically.

3

### THOUGHTFUL, NOT RIGHT, ANSWERS

Students, and teachers, shouldn't be seeking "right" or "wrong" answers, but thoughtful ones.

4

### THE PROCESS OF WRITING PROVIDES INSIGHT, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND

Formative writing prompts provide a process of developing thoughts. Students write to decide what they think.

5

### WRITING IS STILL TEXT-CENTRIC

Although prompts are open-ended and could apply to examples from students' lives or experiences, answers should still be explorative of the text.

6

### OPEN CLASS DISCUSSION WITH A FORMATIVE PROMPT FOR A "DO NOW"

Start your lesson with a formative writing prompt for a Do Now activity. Follow up on the ideas students generate by asking them to craft a sentence distilling their argument, to build towards summative writing.

7

### DON'T LIMIT FORMATIVE PROMPTS TO LANGUAGE ARTS.

Formative writing prompts can be useful for math, science, history, and more. Finding ways to incorporate formative writing prompts in all curricular areas will strength students' reflective and critical thinking abilities across the board.

#### Additional resources on formative writing

- <http://teachlikeachampion.com/blog/formative-versus-summative-writing-prompts-examples/>
- <http://teachlikeachampion.com/blog/ashley-la-grassa-formative-writing-improved-classes/>
- <http://teachlikeachampion.com/blog/three-types-writing-classroom/>