



Great Type Ones to Start the Year

These prompts require no prior knowledge, have no right or wrong answer, and will build opportunities for you to get to know your students while fostering a culture of writing in your classroom. Remember to provide a line or item quota for each prompt (usually about 4-6 lines) or use our primary-grade prompts that encourage students to respond with a drawing.

To get to know students

- What was the best thing/worst thing about your summer vacation (or about returning to school?)
- What are you most looking forward to this school year?
- What are three things I should know about you? Why is it important that I know these things?
- What are some things you are good at?
- What are some things you'd like to get better at (school- or non-school related)?
- What was your greatest accomplishment last school year?
- What is one non-academic goal you have for yourself this school year? Explain how you might achieve it.
- What are some groups you belong to? What do you gain from these groups? How do they overlap?
- What do you like to do in your spare time?
- Do you prefer being indoors or outdoors? Explain.

To generate interest in your content

- What are some questions you have about this class?
- What are some of the things you wonder about in (science, math, reading, writing, etc.)?
- What are some of the skills required to be a successful (painter, reader, teacher, problem solver, etc.)?
- Before we (read this story, begin our first unit, etc.) write what you think it will be about.
- What are some questions you'd like to ask me about myself, my teaching style, and/or this class?

To build engagement and learning accountability

- How do you learn best (by listening, by writing, by doing, etc.)?
- What are some strategies you use when studying for a test? Which of these strategies work best for you?
- What are some of the things you do that make you a good (reader, writer, learner, test taker, problem solver, classmate)?
- What are some areas that you would like to get better at in this class?
- When you're feeling stuck, what are some things you do to get yourself "unstuck"?
- What are some things at school that are easy (or difficult) for you?
- What is one academic goal you have for yourself this school year? Explain how you might achieve it.

To foster social-emotional development

- What are 2-3 words that explain how you are feeling today? Briefly elaborate on each.
- What are you most worried about this school year?
- Do you prefer to work alone or with a group? Explain.
- What are some rules you think we should establish in our classroom?
- Describe 2 or 3 ways you might take a break in class (when needed) and how you will return and refocus.
- What's something great about (school, math, etc.), something you're looking forward to, and something you find challenging?
- What are some things you do to help you relax (or to help you focus, concentrate, etc.)?
- What do you value most in a (teacher, classmate, friend, teammate, etc.)? (e.g., responsibility, sense of humor, compassion, etc.)
- Describe a place that makes you happy, a place that makes your mind content, calm, and positive.

*****Especially for primary grade writers*****

Remember, emerging writers can respond to prompts by drawing.

- Draw a picture of how you got to school today.
- Draw a picture of you doing something you enjoy.
- Draw a picture of you doing something you're good at.
- Draw something that makes you happy.
- Draw a picture of a special person in your life.
- Draw a picture of something in our classroom that looks interesting to you.
- Draw a picture of something you enjoyed doing during the summer.
- Draw a picture of your favorite (food, animal, toy, place, game, etc.).
- Draw a picture of something you do to get ready for school each day.
- Draw a picture of something you like learning (or reading or writing) about.
- Draw a picture of someone being a good friend.
- Draw a picture that shows a rule you think we should have in our classroom.
- Draw a picture of an interesting place you've visited.
- Draw a picture of the best part of school so far.
- Draw a picture of someone helping a classmate (or being a friend, taking turns, following a classroom rule, etc.).
- Draw a picture of something you like to do with your family (or friends).
- Draw a picture of something you like to do at recess.