

Storytelling

Goal of Exercise: To help students be creative, entertaining, and quick in thinking.

Description: Create three bags, cups, or boxes, from which students will draw three prompts. In the first bag, there should be slips of paper that all have characters on them (elephant, cat, girl, alien). In the second, the slips of paper should all be places (mountain, Washington DC, park). In the third, the slips of paper should be objects (hammer, apple, train). The student will draw one slip of paper from each category. They will then tell a unique story that include each of the three words they were given. The words should be prominent in the story, and not side comments or peripheral aspects to the story.

To make this exercise harder, don't create three categories to pull from. Simply put a number of random words into one bag, and the student will pull three slips from the one section. Words could be things like operation, container, eclipse, political, or sound. Be creative! The student will then come up with a story that incorporates the three words they drew.

Students should try to make the story as exciting as possible, and deliver the story with changes in tone, character voices, and speed.

Teacher's Note: When creating topics, try to avoid subjects that might lead to areas that are personal for those in the room. Avoid proper names for the characters, or the towns they come from. Encourage students to keep the stories appropriate and fun. A general guideline might be that the story could be told to a group of young children.

The story does not need to be long. As long as it has a clear beginning, middle, and end, and has incorporated the three topics, the student has been successful.

