



Outdoor Writer's Workshop

<p>OWW 2.1 Generating Ideas for Topics</p>	<p>Connection: <i>We have been reading a lot of informational texts and noticing what kinds of topics authors write about. It is time to start thinking about what you want to write about.</i></p>
<p>Learning Objective: <i>students will generate a list of possible topics in the outdoor classroom</i></p>	<p>Teaching: There are many ways authors get ideas for what they want to write about. Many authors start by wanting to share something they love with others: a sport or hobby, a special place they have visited, or a certain kind of a plant or animal they find especially interesting. Sometimes authors start by wondering about something and the answers to their questions give them enough information to write a book to share with others.</p>
<p>Mentor Texts: a stack of books That are all about one topic: “One Tiny Turtle”; “Bears, Bears, Bears” by Nora Winter; “Look to the North” Jean Craighead George; “Volcanoes” by Seymour Simon; “The Pumpkin Book” and “Apples” by Gail Gibbons; “From Tadpoles to Frogs”, Pferrer; “Little Penguin”, Barrons; “Spinning Spiders”, Berger; “Baseball Q&A”, Smithsonian</p>	<p>“Try It” Take two minutes to look around the classroom for things someone could write about. You can use pictures, book covers or objects in the room to get ideas. Tell your partner two things you see that give you ideas. Tell your partner everything you know about them.</p>
	<p>Instructions to students for Independent Outdoor Writing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When we go outside today to the outdoor classroom, I want you to look carefully and see if you can find five things that might be good topics for an “all-about” book and list them. 2. You can list things you all ready know a lot about and want to learn more, or things you don’t know much about. 3. After you make your list, circle the one you might like to write about and write down everything you notice about it. What it looks like, the color shape, size and where it is in the OC.
	<p>Share Out <i>Teacher scribes a list on a chart of all the things students have on their</i></p>

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lists. Now everyone has the “big List” to get ideas they may have not thought about themselves.

Applying the Skill

The teacher can refer back to this list on following visits to the outdoor classroom.

We can get ideas for writing by looking around at our surroundings.

We don't always have to be outdoors. The classroom, the schoolyard and any place we find ourselves can be a place to get ideas.

We can use the same technique we used in the Outdoor classroom: looking around at our surroundings and making a list of things to write about. Later we can choose one item from this list and begin to write everything we know and can observe about this subject.