



OWW 1.1 Generating a list of what you know how to do

Learning Objective: *Students will generate a list of possible topics to write about based on what they know how to do in the outdoors.*

Mentor Texts:

"The Pumpkin Book", Gail Gibbons;
"From Wax to Crayons," Max H. Forman; *"Games and How to Play Them", Ann Rockwell;* *"Peanut Butter and Jelly A Play Rhyme Big Book";*
Teacher-made Books to support this project and Co-constructed books from the classroom.

Connection: *We have been reading books that tell us "How to" do things. I shared the books I wrote on "How to Wash a Dog" and "How to Make French Toast" and we love the Big Book "Peanut Butter and Jelly", and now I think you are ready to think about the kinds of things you know how to do that might make great "How-to" books.*

Teaching: I wrote my books because these are two things that I do a lot and I feel I really could tell others how to do. There are other things I could have written about too. So, I began by making a list of things I could share with others (How- to: Wash a dog, Make French Toast, Kayak, Play golf, Plant a rose bush) and I picked one to begin.

"Try It" take a look around the classroom and think about all of the things you can do in this classroom, that you could show someone else how to do (sharpen pencils, feed the hamster, clean up after centers) and turn to your partner and share your ideas.

Instructions to students for Independent Outdoor Writing:

Today we are going to use the outdoor classroom to get more ideas of things we might write a how-to book about.

We are going to write the topics on our list on our clipboards and share our ideas when we return to the classroom. Examples: (How-to: Open the gate to the outdoor classroom; how to plant bulbs, vegetables or other plants; how to compost, how to visit the outdoor classroom; how to pick a weed, how to make a snowman, a snow angel, how to make animals feel welcome in the outdoor classroom, How to look for animal tracks).

1. Get your clipboard and paper and get ready to go out to the outdoor classroom

Outdoor Writer's Workshop



2. Look around the outdoor classroom and think about all of the things you know how to do out here.
3. As you walk around start listing what you could tell someone how-to do.
4. Write as many things as you can think of.

Share Out

Teacher scribes a list on a chart of all the things students have on their lists. Now everyone has one "big list" they can draw from to get ideas they may have not thought of themselves.

Applying the Skill

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. There are many things you do at home that could be good topics for a "How-to" book. A homework assignment could be looking for ideas at home (or at the bus stop, at the beach, at a soccer game.)