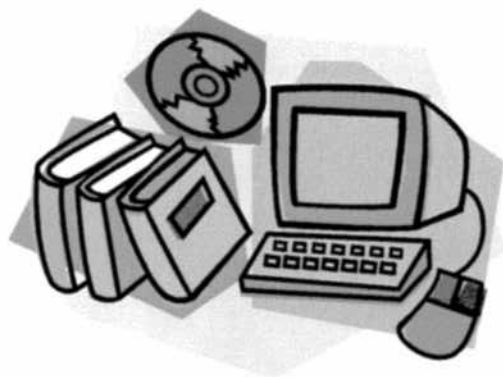


# SCIENCE WRITING PROMPTS

<http://writingprompts.tumblr.com/>

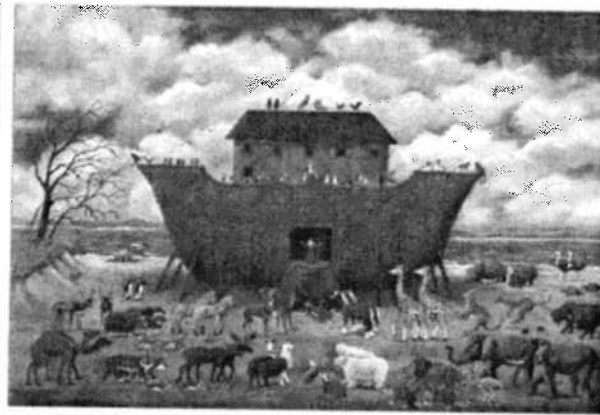
PIIC PLO

January 2014



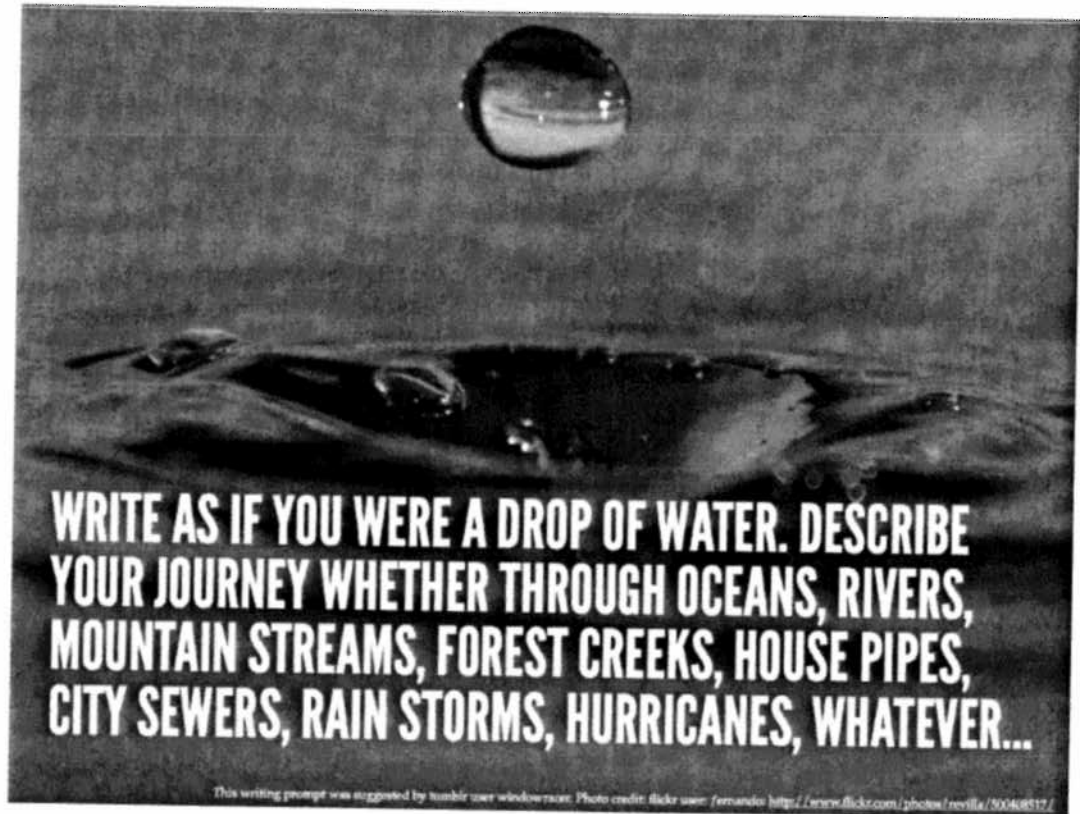
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PIIC's Mission: To support instructional coaching which helps teachers strengthen instructional practice, increase student engagement, and improve student learning.



The earth is experiencing a huge flood. Luckily, you have a **boat specially designed to survive this flood**. Experts believe it is likely that all the animals on the planet will die except for the ones that you bring on the boat. Unfortunately, you only have room for five types of animals. **Which five kinds of animals do you choose to save? Why those animals?**

Photo credit: [https://www.flickr.com/groups/isaiah\\_ark/](https://www.flickr.com/groups/isaiah_ark/)



Common Core:  
Writing Anchor  
Standard 2: Write  
informative/explanatory  
texts to examine a topic and  
convey ideas and  
information clearly.

**WHAT IF HUMANS WERE  
ARTHROPODS AND HAD  
SKELETONS ON THE OUTSIDE?  
WHAT WOULD THIS CHANGE ABOUT  
THE WORLD AND OUR LIVES?**

.....

There's lots to think about here. How would sports be different? How would hospitals and surgery be different? What about fashion? How might being arthropods change the way we treat each other? Explore and explain your thoughts on this.

Common Core:  
Writing Anchor  
Standard 2: Write  
informative/explanatory  
texts to examine a topic and  
convey ideas and  
information clearly.

**YOU ONLY GET TO CHOOSE  
FIVE PLANTS TO TAKE WITH  
YOU TO A NEW PLANET.  
WHICH PLANTS DO YOU  
TAKE AND WHY?**

.....  
Assume for the sake of the prompt that they will grow  
fine on the new planet. Do you take plants that  
provide food, medicine, beauty, or something else?

Common Core:  
Writing Anchor  
Standard 2: Write  
informative/explanatory  
texts to examine a topic and  
convey ideas and  
information clearly.

**WHAT'S THE BEST METAPHOR FOR  
EXPLAINING WHAT A CELL DOES:  
A POWER PLANT, A CITY, A POND, A  
FACTORY, A LIBRARY, A HOUSE, A  
RECYCLING PLANT, A HOSPITAL, A  
RESTAURANT, OR SOMETHING ELSE?**

.....  
Which one of these is a cell most like? Which of them  
explains the most about what it is that a cell actually does?  
Explain why the one you chose is the best.

Common Core:  
Writing Anchor  
Standard 3: Write  
narratives to develop real  
or imagined experiences or  
events using effective  
technique, descriptive  
details, and clear event  
sequences.

# "ALL CELLS COME FROM OTHER CELLS"

.....

Have you heard that one before? "All cells come from other cells." Take a moment to contemplate what that means about the cells in your body. And then let your imagination run wild. Pick one imaginary cell, and tell the story of where has it been. What has it been part of? What does it know about the world? What has that one cell seen? How would that single cell tell its life story?

Common Core:  
Writing Anchor  
Standard 2: Write  
informative/explanatory  
texts to examine a topic and  
convey ideas and  
information clearly.

## TOOLS, EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES

.....  
Through a strange set of circumstances, **your life depends on whether or not you can make a major discovery in the field of biology within the next week.** You are going to be locked in a giant laboratory for this entire week. What tools, equipment, and supplies would you want to have in there with you? Why those? Once you've made your choices and explained them, answer this: how similar is this list to what you have available to you already in the school lab?

Common Core:  
Writing Anchor  
Standard 1: Write  
arguments to support claims  
with clear reasons and  
relevant evidence.

Common Core:  
Writing Anchor  
Standard 2: Write  
informative/explanatory  
texts to examine a topic and  
convey ideas and  
information clearly.

# **MAKE A MAGAZINE- STYLE ADVERTISEMENT FOR ATP AS IF IT WAS AN ENERGY DRINK.**

.....

Do you need to review what ATP is and what it does? You might want to take a minute or two to do that before starting this prompt. While reviewing consider how will you advertise ATP in a way that makes it sound awesome. Make sure your ad has plenty of “ad copy” – text that explains the advantages of your product in a clever way.