



Slips & Zips Writing Prompt Activity

This is a really simple and reusable writing prompt tool. Here's a quick rundown of what you need and how to use it. This was adapted from an exercise I was taught at a Writing Workshop at BookCon 2019.

What You Need:

- The next three pages printed
- a pair of scissors
- 3 Snack size Ziplock bags
- 1 Quart size Ziplock bag

Set Up:

1. Label the three Snack Size Ziplock bags “People”, “Things”, and “Circumstances” while the three pages below are printing.
2. Label the Quart Size Ziplock bag “Slips & Zips Writing Prompt Activity.”
3. Use the scissors to cut each line of the “people” page into a separate slip of paper.
4. Put all the “people” slips of paper into the “People” Ziplock bag.
5. Repeat the same process for the “Things” page and Ziplock bag, and then again for the “Circumstances” page and Ziplock bag.
6. Place all three Snack Sized Ziplock bags inside the Quart Size Bag.

How To Use:

When you are ready to write, select one slips of paper from the “People” bag, two to three slips of paper from the “Things” bag and one slip of paper from the “Circumstances” bag. Set a timer for at least 15-20 minutes (feel free to go longer!) to write a story using the person as your protagonist, including the things you selected where the circumstance is a pivotal part of the story.

Happy Writing!

Don't forget to subscribe to the [Stop Writing Alone Substack Newsletter and community](#) for more resources like this and opportunities to write together!

People

Someone who likes to talk to strangers

Someone who is afraid of ticks

Someone who is a super-fan

Someone who is a clean freak

Someone who lives with their parents

Someone who likes to argue

Someone who loves to travel

Someone who buys high-end products

Someone who is very cheap

Someone who is on a health kick

Someone who is depressed

Someone who loves animals

Someone who lives alone

Someone who works from home

Someone who is a workaholic

Someone who is unemployed

Someone who hates traffic

Someone who loves cooking

Someone who wants children

Someone who loves music

Someone who is superstitious

Someone who is a slob

Someone who likes talk radio

Someone who likes to wave at people

Things

tomatoes

books

daffodils

play-doh

shower

swings

SUVs

pancakes

grass clippings

cats

paints

pencils

chairs

light bulbs

mirrors

sneakers

screwdrivers

forks

scissors

sweaters

shoelaces

coffee beans

water balloons

fish

Circumstances

flat tire

locked out

waiting in (on) line

traffic jam

fire

flood

party

cook out

dance

food truck festival

failed backup

breakup

make up

first kiss

first date

graduation

black out

thunderstorm

rainbow

full moon

dog ate homework

breakfast in bed

broken leg

surgery