

Scholastic Instructor suggests WAYS to GET KIDS WRITING:

1. Online Mad Libs

Nothing teaches parts of speech with as much laugh-out-loud joy as a good game of Mad Libs. With the Wacky Tales link at funbrain.com, students can choose from a variety of already selected words or use that list to inspire them to come up with their own descriptions. Their stories are guaranteed to be hilarious, and the activity is ideal for those students who are shy about sharing.

2. Write Your Own Folktales

Since at least the dawn of cafeteria food, kids have enjoyed hearing myths. Using [Scholastic's website](#), kids can weave their own myths, folktales, and fairy tales using superb examples of all three. Be sure to have them check out the link to the Storytelling Workshop, a listen-and-watch workshop with Gerald Fierst performing the West African folktale "How Monkey Stole the Drum."

3. Story Maps and Graphic Organizers

[Graphic organizers](#) are key for young writers, and for those writers who are primarily visual learners, story mapping takes it one step further. [This site](#) describes story mapping in detail and includes lesson plans and a rubric that will motivate students to make deeper connections between character and actions and get those marker-happy kids even happier.

4. 12. Persuasive Writing for K-5

Think persuasive writing is just for middle schoolers? Think again! [This site](#) includes valuable resources-printouts, lesson plans for different levels, links, and a student interactive-for teaching the art of persuasion to kids in kindergarten through fifth grade. [The lessons](#) on Fact vs. Opinion, Peer Review, and Speechwriting are particularly excellent.

5. What If? Prompts

What if cows gave root beer instead of milk? What if it really did rain cats and dogs? These are just two examples from over 200 of the writing prompts listed on [this site](#). Questions range from silly to introspective and guarantee more smiles and less groans during freewriting and journal time.

6. Vocabulary Challenge

"I finished typing my final draft two days ago. Can't I just play computer games?" If you've heard this before (and you have), direct your gifted (or just super-motivated) student to [this website](#) full of challenging online quizzes for grammar, vocabulary, and literary devices.

7. Free Typing Class

One of the most basic technical aspects of writing in the 21st century is knowing how to type, but the irony of growing up with smart-phones is how few can do it using more than two fingers. Luckily it's easy and costs nothing to [learn to type](#) using the games on this [fun website](#).

8. "If I had the power"

[This site](#) lists over [30 writing activities](#) to promote self-reflection for students of all levels. The titles alone (e.g., "If I Had the Power," "I Am What I Think I Am!") are empowering; one can only imagine the positive vibes that will grow.