



Tips for involving the YNWC in the classroom and your work with young people

Creative writing prompts

Begin a session using the creative writing prompts we have available online - there are over 50 to choose from! Visit nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/teaching-resources

Here's a sample from each category:

Script

It's a warm summer's day. Two figures from different periods of history meet – perhaps they are politicians, musicians or inventors. Write the scene in dialogue.

Lyrics

The TV hurts my brain / what happens when politicians tell the truth? / Love cuts like a plastic knife

Prose fiction

A character is moving to another city. She visits her favourite public place and sees something that makes her want to stay. Describe this in 500 words, using third person (he/she).

Prose non-fiction

Tell a story from your life in inverted chronological order. Start with the end, then backpedal to the middle, then tell the beginning, and then fill in the rest of the gaps.

Poetry

Use Tupac Shakur's 'The Rose that Grew from Concrete' as a stimulus for writing about two juxtaposing elements, ideas, feelings that come together. Write it in free form verse and then try out different forms: rhyming couplets, blank verse, sonnet, Ode.

Free writing

We love this one at NCW! Give your group five minutes of free writing time. The pen mustn't stop - encourage writers to keep the words coming. It doesn't matter what ends up on the page, as long as you keep writing for five minutes. You'll be surprised at what comes through.

This is really good for writer's block, and often writers find the germ of an idea forming through the seemingly random lines.

Recognising a writer

Thanks to technology, writing reaches us in many different ways: for example, through blogs, tweets and daily news updates.

Perhaps you know a young person who has a YouTube channel and has the gift of the gab? Encourage them to write down what they have to say and enter it as a script.

Young people are becoming increasingly politicised. Perhaps you know someone who has lots to say about the world? Suggest they write a 'think piece' about an issue they care about.

Know a young musician who writes songs? Encourage them to enter their lyrics.

How to enter the Young Norfolk Writing Competition

Go to nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/young-norfolk-writing-competition/ and follow the link to the online entry form. Alternatively, you can email your entry to competitions@nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk.

Remember to include your name, age, school year, school, and a contact email/phone number for your teacher, parent or carer if you are under 18.

The competition is open to all 11-18s who live or go to school in Norfolk. You can enter a maximum of six pieces of writing across the categories (maximum three pieces in a single category).

The categories are: Fiction, creative non-fiction, scripts, graphic stories, poems and song lyrics.

For word limits and further information, please visit the National Centre for Writing website.

Deadline: 5pm Monday 3rd June 2019