

## Writing Prompts with Extensions into Drama and Dance

### Warm-up:

Begin with a 2 minute free-write on any topic whatsoever. Assure students that this is just a warm-up and they won't be asked to share. Direct the students to keep writing and if they get stuck to just keep repeating the phrase "pen to paper, pen to paper" until something else emerges.

### Prompt #1:

I am/ I am not

Or

I remember/ I don't remember

### Prompt #2: Rant

Something that really gets to you- something that is unfair, or annoying, or needs to change. Write freely. There is no sub-text here!

### Prompt #3: Love Letters

Introduce students to the art project by Syrus Marus Ware: [Activist Love Letters](#).

**Teachers:** compose a "love letter" ( letter of appreciation) to your students.

Share this letter with your students as an exemplar. The following prompts may be helpful

*I see... I imagine...I wonder...I wish...I appreciate...You are...You can be...I hope...*

Now invite the students to write "love letters" to one of their teachers, or a friend or family member or change maker. Note: Be very clear that these "love letter" are expression of appreciation, not romantic love letters.

**Extension:** Ask the students to choose 3 of their most interesting lines. In partners, have them combine the lines you have selected to create a collaborative 6-line love letter.

#### **Prompt #4: Prepositional Poetry**

Have the students write poetry about a topic or story you are exploring in drama or dance. Each line must begin with a preposition. Here is a bank of some prepositions with which to get started:

at, about, above, across, after, beyond, behind, beneath, beside, between, by, during, except, for, from, in, inside, into, near, off, on, onto, out of, outside, over, past, through, toward, under, underneath, until, upon, with, within

#### **Prepositional Poetry: Examples**

The following prepositional poem was composed by a teacher about teaching, as an exemplar to share with students.

#### **With Love and Care**

Across many decades  
Through the changing political winds  
With love and care  
In open classrooms and crowded portables and beautiful studio spaces  
With young hearts, minds, and hands  
From early morning  
Until late evening  
Under the spell of making art

The following prepositional poem was written by a senior level student in drama:

### **Gold Coin**

Aboard ship, sailing

Over troubled waters

Past gigantic glaciers

Under roaring skies

Through new territories

Beyond return,

To the shrinking shore of home

Without possessions, save the gold coin

Beneath my trouser cuff, a gift

From my mother

Before departure

Before goodbye

Until we meet again

by Teoma Naccarato

[from Departures unit, CODE website](#)