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.

Compiled by C. Jackson, 2025

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