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Make a Writer's Block



Journalists spend a great deal of time writing, meeting deadlines, and finishing pieces. They need to write on a regular basis. But it's not uncommon for writers to experience "writer's block" and feel stuck. Suddenly ideas have dried up, words aren't flowing, and the blank paper remains blank. For this activity, make a creative writer's block—pun intended—to help motivate your writing.

Approximate age range: fourth to eighth grade

Objective: To find an inspirational way to address "writer's block."

You'll Need:

- * Two-inch wood block (available at craft stores)
- * Sandpaper
- * Acrylic paint
- * Paintbrush
- * Permanent markers
- * Decoupage paste (optional)
- * Computer and printer

1. Remove any stickers from your two-inch wood block and sand lightly.



2. Paint the block with a light-colored acrylic paint. Repaint the block two or three times to cover it completely.

3. Think about activities or behaviors that get your mind going. Write down a list of about six to eight short activities that would inspire you to start writing. Examples might be: “take a walk,” “listen to music,” “meditate,” or “read.”

4. You can type out six phrases using a small font, and then print on computer paper and cut out. These phrases can be glued to the block. Or, you can write your phrases directly on the side of the block



5. Then, create designs around your phrases.

6. You can paint the block with decoupage paste for a final coat.

7. Now set the block in a visible place. When your words need to flow, look at your block and think about ways to start writing again.

