

Recommended Writing from Sources Book: Grades 3-8

Writing to the Prompt: When Students Don't Have a Choice

By Janet Angelillo

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There's no avoiding standardized writing tests in grades 3–8. Yet while writing to prompts defies the ambitions of the writing workshop model, teachers overlook this increasingly important kind of writing at not only their own peril, but also that of their students. In the groundbreaking *Writing to the Prompt*, Janet Angelillo demonstrates how to apply the best practices you already know to help students succeed in the uncertain and challenging environment of on-demand writing—without abandoning your writing workshop or devaluing topic choice. Beginning with a framework for thinking about writing to prompts, Angelillo builds a complete unit of study for use in any writing workshop, complete with strategies for addressing the rigors of timed-test situations and practical suggestions for ongoing assessment. *Writing to the Prompt* also puts into your hands support materials such as charts and checklists as well as student writing from the many diverse classrooms where Angelillo's lessons have been successfully implemented. You'll have both the humane teaching techniques you need to develop students' facility to work with assigned topics across the content areas and up-close examples of the kinds of thinking, talking, and writing that stimulate thoughtful engagement with third-party ideas. Don't give over your writing workshop to test prep, but don't ignore the reality that so much of the writing we do in life requires an authentic response to assigned topics. Read Janet Angelillo's *Writing to the Prompt* and make space in your curriculum for both choices and prompts.

Contents

Introduction

- Writing Workshop: The Foundation of Writing Instruction
- Video Game Thinking or Finding an Analogy
- Talk Among Yourselves: The Role of Conversation in Responding to Prompts
- Intellectual Play: Digging into Others' Ideas
- The Daily Work: Using Prompts to Lift the Level of Student Work
- What About Your Rights? Assigned Topics for Content-Area Work
- The Writer's Job: Assigned Topics and the Qualities of Good Writing
- Living with an Idea: Units of Study for Writing About Assigned Topics
- Write About This: Preparing Students for Timed Writing on Demand
- How'd It Go? Assessing Writing About Assigned Topics

Conclusion

