



Writing Fundamentals

Selecting an Intention & Idea

4-5 Launching

Rationale:

Selecting an idea is the first step in preparing a piece of writing for publication.

Preparation:

- Writer's Notebook
- Chart or transparency of "Writing Intentions" (see Appendix 1)
- Copies of "Intention, Topic, and Vision" (see Appendix 2)

Teaching:

Inform

We have spent some time talking and writing with various intentions in mind. Over the next two to three weeks, each of you will prepare a piece of writing for an audience. In other words, prepare a piece for publication. Today, you will make a decision about what you want to publish.

Present

We have talked about reasons writers write. We have tried writing, or envisioned writing, for a variety of intentions. Here is a list of the intentions we have discussed. **Present and read the list of writing intentions on Appendix 1.** Before we move forward, I want you to think about these intentions. Talk to the person next to you about them, and discuss the writing ideas they inspired. **Give students a few minutes to discuss their ideas with their partners. Circulate around the meeting area gathering snippets of conversation. Share some of the things you heard.** It seems many of you are already drawn to certain intentions. Some of you want to create writing with more than one intention in mind. Others are still considering all the options. Our next step will be to reread all the entries we have written in our notebooks. Sometimes a topic leads our intention, so pay attention to topics that continue to come up in your writing.

Engage

I am going to give you some sticky notes to use while you reread. Use the sticky notes to mark entries you could envision using and developing further for a published piece.

Take a moment to talk again with the person sitting next to you. Share your thinking about the entries you posted and your ideas about what you might want to publish. Be sure to get feedback. **Give students time to talk. Ask one or two students to share their ideas with the whole class.**

Reiterate

Today, you will need to make decisions about your intention, your topic, and begin to think about your vision for a published piece. During writing time today, take some time to clarify your thinking. Use these questions to help guide you as you write your ideas in your Writer's Notebook. **Display or distribute copies of Appendix 2.**

Conference Questions:

- Why do you like this topic?
- Are you comfortable with the topic?
- What is your purpose?
- Why did you choose this intent to write?
- Who could you imagine reading this piece?
- Have you read anything like what you imagine publishing?

Extensions:

- Give students time to share the writing they did for this lesson.
- Have students look for published writing that resembles what they envision publishing.

Appendix 1:

"Writing Intentions"

Appendix 2:

"Intention, Topic, and Vision"



Intention, Topic, and Vision

Intent: What intention am I most interested in? _____

- To teach readers how to do something? _____

- To persuade readers to take action? _____

- To entertain readers? _____

- To inform readers about something? _____

- To express some feelings and emotions? _____

Topic:

- Which idea keeps coming up whenever I make lists of things in my Writer's Notebook? _____

- Which topic would work well with my intent listed above? _____

- Which topic am I really interested in? _____

- Which topic could I develop into something larger? _____

My Vision:

- What do I envision creating? _____

- Who do I envision reading my piece? _____

