
Writing Planners

Help students realize that sketching their thoughts is not a waste of time, but yields a coherent, polished piece of writing. Whether they are informing, persuading, or describing, planning is essential! Writing planners help students organize their thoughts around a central topic. They allow students to sort through and select ideas before writing them down in a paragraph or essay.

Inclusion Tip

Include more visual prompts to help less abstract learners collect their thoughts. Most important, be aware of quieter or possibly depressed students who may be reaching out for recognition and responses to their written communication.

Personal Narrative Planner (page 31)

This personal narrative planner helps students organize their thoughts before writing. Remind students that narrative writing is often biographical. It can tell about an experience from their past, a recent or ongoing experience, or something that happened to someone else they know, such as a parent or grandparent. This particular planner invites students to focus on their own lives. Prompt students with questions that stimulate thinking. Ask: *What was your favorite memory? What is your life like now? What are your future plans?*

Sensory Writing Planner (page 32)

This planner helps students think of and add sensory elements to their writing. Students might begin by thinking of a place and then writing sensory words in the columns to describe that place. For example: *At the beach, I see colorful towels and umbrellas; I feel the hot sun on my skin; I smell the fresh ocean breeze; I hear crashing waves; I taste the salty ocean.* After completing the planner, have students write a paragraph.

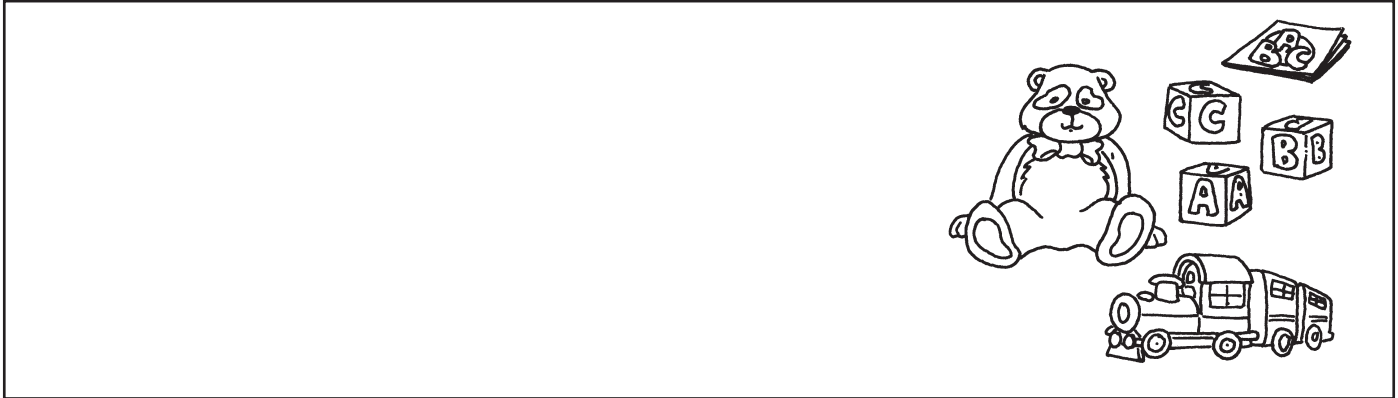
Persuasive Writing Planner (page 33)

Students will use this planner to organize their ideas for persuasive essays. They can use the planner give reasons for and to support their argument. After they've filled in their planner, have them go back to revise their ideas, editing, deleting, adding, and reorganizing as necessary, before writing their essays.

Personal Narrative Planner

Directions: Write your thoughts about the past, present, and future in the boxes below. Write whatever comes to mind—words, phrases, or sentences.

Past: Remember some past events.



Present: Concentrate on now.







Future: Focus on thinking ahead.



Sensory Writing Planner

Directions: Use this planner to write sensory words for your essay or story.

See 	Hear 	Smell 	Touch 	Taste 