

NORTH CAROLINA READING ASSOCIATION, INC.
YOUNG AUTHORS 2023



THEME: *Your Voice Matters: Celebrating EVERY Reader's Story*

IDEAS for RESPONDING to THEME

Use the following prompts or questions to create your writing and/or art

- Tell the story of where you/your family comes from.
- Tell the story of how you got your name.
- Tell the story of what you stand for.
- Tell the story of a time when you learned something new or important.
- Tell the story of a family memory that has strong emotions for you.
- Tell the story of when you faced a challenge that required you to be brave.

- Tell about a time when you took an unpopular position or used your voice to share an opinion or idea that others might not agree with.
- Tell the story of a family tradition.
- What do you most value?
- What is your best memory?
- Where does your story begin?
- What personal possession is most important to you and why?
- Tell the story of a place that is important to you.
- What “gift” would you like to give to the world?
- What character trait is most important to you?
- Who is your hero?
- How have you used your voice to create change?
- Why do you think some people are reluctant to use their voice?
- When have you used your voice to stand up for someone or something?
- Write a story in which a character uses their voice for change.
- Write a review of a book you have read in which the person or character uses their voice for change or protest.
- Write a poem using the line: I used to think.....but now I know..... Repeat as many times as you need or repeat with variations
- Write a poem using the line starter: I am from.... (see sample poem/video for ideas: https://youtu.be/ZdnHI_yW1dQ)
- Write a metaphor poem that tells your story by using the framework: I am a; I.... (example: I am a firefly; I light up the world for my friends)
- Write a letter to a living or historical person whose voice has had an impact on you and/or the world.

- How would you like to be remembered?
- What makes you different from others who are your age?
- What advice would you give to the world?
- Why is using your “voice” important?
- What makes using your voice hard?
- Describe a time when you did not speak up. How do you feel about it now?
- How do artists use their voice to create a message?
- What song(s) do you listen to that inspire you to use your voice to send a message?
- Read the poem, “This is my letter to the world” by Emily Dickinson. What is her message? (<https://youtu.be/65fgA2kGrag>) Write your letter to the world. (high school)
- How has technology changed how humans use their voice?
- What are the positive and negative aspects of using your voice via social media?
- What is your passion? (<https://youtu.be/eqkl3JprDsU> springboard)
- What’s the key to your heart?
- Tell the story of a hard decision that a character has to make. What makes the decision hard?
- How do animals use their voice?
- What song best shows who you are or what you stand for?
- What animal is most like you and why?
- Write a letter of advice to your younger self.
- Write a letter to your future self. (at least 10 years into future)
- What profession/career/job do you aspire to?

- If you could only read one book for the rest of your life—what book would you choose and why?
- What famous piece of art are you most drawn to? How does it reflect your emotions/ideas?

Prompts from: <https://writetheworld.com/groups/1/assignments/3503>

WRITER ID

1. What is your favorite genre to write?
2. What is your favorite genre to read?
3. What draws you to the WtW community?
4. What do you find most challenging about writing?
5. Most exhilarating?
6. What is one goal that you have for yourself while here?

(Copy and paste these questions into the writing field, and respond below each.)

ALL IN A NAME

“Names are the sweetest and most important sound in any language,” wrote Dale Carnegie. We hail from all around the globe, dear writers, with names reflecting our language, geography, family, culture, religion, and much much more.

For this prompt, tell us the story of your name: its history, its meaning, how it was chosen for you, or your own feelings about its sound or popularity. You may write about your first, middle, or last name.

Need more ideas?

- Were you named after someone?
- Have you always been called a nickname?
- Do you know anyone with the same name?

- Does your name have historical significance?
- Do you have any funny facts or stories about your name

YOU IN THREES: Choose any or all of these prompts to tell your story

1. Three communities to which you belong (these can be unusual).
2. Three places you learn well (these can be unusual).
3. Three adjectives your peers would use to describe you.
4. Three adjectives your family would use.
5. Three adjectives you would use.
6. Three beliefs you hold.
7. Three sources of comfort.
8. Three instincts that serve you well.
9. Three responsibilities you shoulder.
10. Three things of which you are proud.
11. Three qualities that make your life singular and/or unusual.