

INTERACTIVE WEBSITES TO IMPROVE STUDENT WRITING SKILLS, GRADES 3-5

Get the Scoop

Learn how to write a news article and “publish” it on this site. Grades 3-5 (or intervention 6-8)

Website Address: <http://pbskids.org/newsflashfive/scoop/index.html>

Scholastic Poetry Engine

Five different kinds of poetry are generated with student assistance. Grades 3-5 (or intervention 6-8)

Website Address: http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/poetry/flash_pie.htm

Letter Generator

Learn the parts of a letter and then learn to write one. Grades 3-5 (or intervention 6-8)

Website Address: http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/letter_generator/

Diamante (Diamond-Shaped) Poetry

Learn the parts of a diamante poem and then learn to write one. Grades 3-5 (or intervention 6-8)

Website Address: <http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/diamante/>

Doodle Splash Assessment Tool

Caveman art is coupled with explaining the doodle and its connection to what is read. This is a great way to sync reading and writing! Grades 3-5 (or intervention 6-8)

Web Address: <http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/doodle/index.html>

Storybird

Students can write stories, collaborate on stories, and read each other’s work. Grades K-12.

Web Address: <http://www.storybird.com>

Bubbl.us Brainstorming

This site is like KidSpiration, but it is free and easy to use. Grades 3-12

Web Address: <https://bubbl.us/>

Writing Cube Creator

This site helps students create four different types of writing—biography/autobiography, mystery, basic elements story, create-your-own-topic. Grades 3-5 (or 6-8 intervention)

Web Address: http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/cube_creator/

Class Story Writer

After a teacher types in the story starter, students log in to write. After the different developments are read, the class decides which direction the story should take. Edits and conferences abound until the class agrees the story is finished. Then it is published! Grades 3-5 (or 6-8 intervention)

Web Address: <http://www.boomwriter.com/home/schools/>

Witty Comics Generator

Students choose backgrounds, characters, and dialogue to go in speech bubbles. This can be used to write stories or share facts on a content-related unit. Grades 3-5 (or 6-8 intervention)

Web Address: <http://www.wittycomics.com/>

Comic Generator

No log-in, no email. Just go to this site and create a comic by choosing background, characters, and talk/thought bubbles. Use this to teach such elements as transitions, sequence, figures of speech—pretty much anything for fiction. Assess what your students know about a nonfiction topic using this generator. Very basic, but safe to use. Grades 3-5 (or 6-8 intervention)

Web Address: <http://writecomics.com/>

Snippet Generator

Choose from quite a few snippet templates—news article, talking tomatoes, talking squirrels, ninja text writer, and several others. You choose the format, insert the “talking” text, and then generate! After you like your creation, it can be downloaded onto your hard drive, into a blog, or on your classroom web page. This format is great for introducing a unit, emphasizing content, or guiding students through a process. Very basic, but it gets the job done. Grades 3-5 (or 6-8 intervention)

Web Address: <http://www.fodey.com/generators/newspaper/snippet.asp>

ABC Ya!

This website has grade levels for aspects that will improve students’ reading and writing skills. Many subsumed skills can be reviewed without explicit instruction, and if there are struggling students in the room, they will not feel singled out when everyone in the room wants to play the skill-reinforcing games that have mini-tutorials and hints to improve abilities. This site has won plenty of awards lately.

Grades K-5 (excellent for ELL and intervention with older students)

Web Address: <http://www.abcya.com/>