



## 40 Minute Writing Activity – Parent Instructions

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► **The activity focuses on helping your child time and organize their writing. This activity aims to:**

- Assist with the development of a schedule allowing time to complete assignments
- Work in small time periods rather than spending hours at a time
- Begin with a brainstorming stage where ideas about the subject are written down. If a student has spelling or graphomotor problems, scribe for them or allow use of a computer (For example, Mindmapping software like [Freeplane](#) or [Ayoa](#))
- Help the student organize their ideas from the brainstorming to an organizational model
- Encourage the student to elaborate on which ideas need to be included in the assignment within the organizational model
- Begin writing first/rough draft from the model
- Edit for vocabulary usage, sentencng, grammatical constructions, mechanics of writing (spelling, capitals, punctuation, paragraphing)

► **Your responsibility is to:**

- Help them keep time when they are working/encourage the use of a timer
- Help check their work at different stages
- Read the final version and give feedback
- Come up with a topic for your child to write about. It could be something they are interested in, and argument for an issue, or even a new topic they need to research

► **Some ideas:**

- Their favourite hobby
- Their favourite animal
- What career they want to pursue
- A topic they are studying in science or history (or any other school subject!)
- Something they want to learn more about



*Remember that if your child struggles with handwriting, they may take longer to complete this task or produce less writing. That is ok! The point is to practice these skills to improve motor skills, working memory and organizational skills.*

**Try to have your child write once a day!**



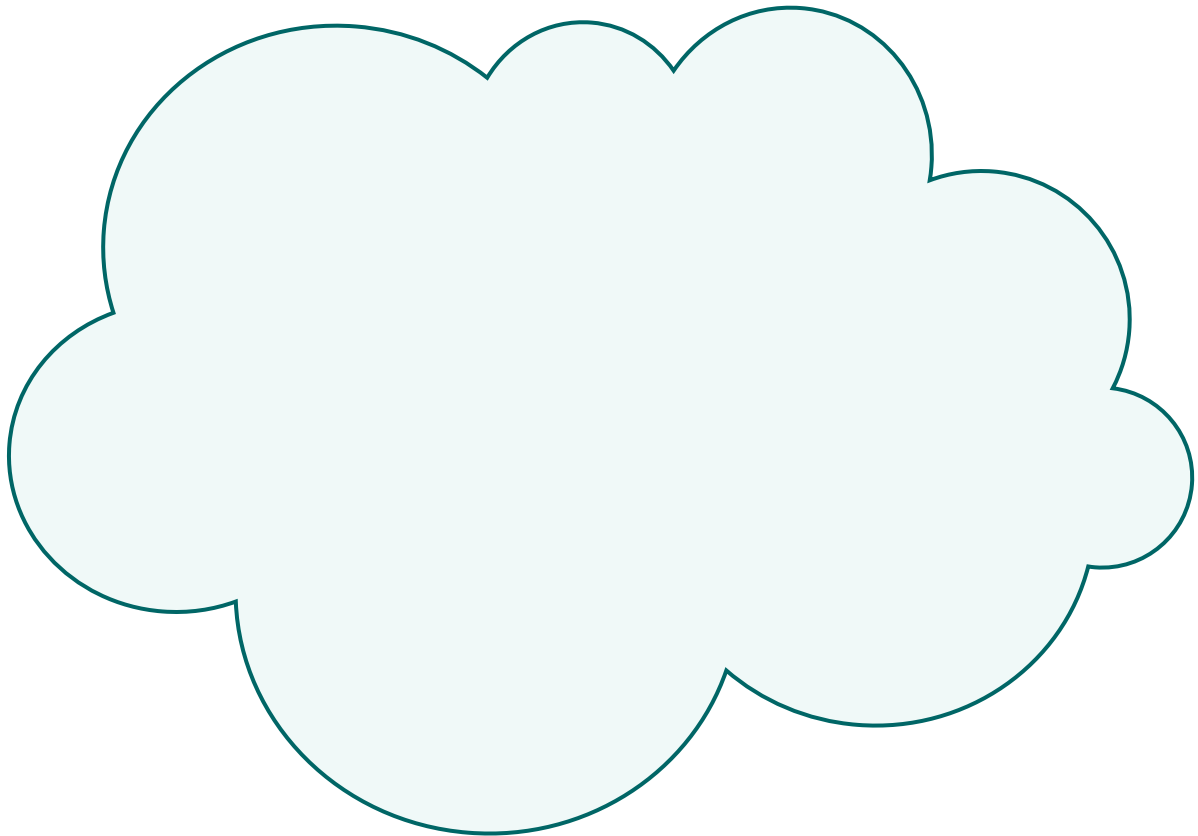
## 40 Minute Writing Activity

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In this activity, you will **write 2-3 paragraphs about a topic in 40 minutes**. You will have time to **brainstorm, plan, write and edit**. Follow the timings in each section to help you and be sure to use a **stopwatch or timer**.

▶ **Section 1: Brainstorming (5 minutes)**

Start by writing down any words or phrases that come to mind about your topic. Put anything down that pops into your head!



▶ What are some **key** ideas you have come up with? Highlight them!

▶ **Section 2: Planning (10 minutes)**

Now that you have some ideas, you can start to structure them into sentences. Use the boxes to start writing your introductory sentences, as well as other sentences or starters to make up your paragraphs. There are some sentence starters to help you get going! You can use them, or not use them. It is up to you.

▶ Today I will be writing about...

Firstly, I believe that...

I believe this because...

(anything else you want to add?)

In addition, I think...

This is important because...

Lastly...



▶ **Section 4: Proofreading (10 minutes)**

Once you have finished writing, you should check your work for any errors. Look for missing periods, capital letters or connecting words. Check words you know you misspell often. It doesn't have to be perfect, but try to catch what you can!

▶ Use the boxes below and check them off when you have checked your work:

✓ **Punctuation**

- All sentences start with a capital letter
- All sentences end with a period
- Commas are used when needed to stop run on sentences

✓ **Clarity**

- My sentences are clear
- My ideas are in an order that makes sense
- I don't have too many ideas in one sentence
- I have separated big ideas into paragraphs as needed

✓ **Spelling**

- I have checked common homophones – words that sound the same but are spelled differently (*there/they're/their*)
- I have checked words I misspell often (*receive/necessary/etc.*)

✓ **Grammar**

- I have made sure to write in the same verb tense – i.e. all past tense (*I was*) or all present tense (*I am*)
- I have used connections in my writing (*and/so/but/etc.*)