

W.O.W. FACTOR

Words Of Wisdom for Wisconsin Coaches and Students

Writing Prompts for Global Issues Problem Solving

Use to review how to write each step of the problem solving process.

Students may/should use these prompts while writing booklets for Practice Problems 1 and 2!

1 Writing Challenges

Cause – facts from research and/or the Future Scene

Effect – what might happen; use MAY MIGHT COULD

Consequence – as a result, a result might be, consequently, may be a problem if/when



A. Brainstormed phrase: kids in different grades don't get along

Because 6th, 7th and 8th grade students tend to isolate themselves from each other, conflicts often develop when they do come in contact. These strained relationships may lead to inappropriate actions, like teasing, arguments, etc.

B. Brainstormed phrase: bullying & harassment

Many students bully and harass others. Besides hurting feelings, this may create an overall atmosphere of tension and retaliation, which might make school an unpleasant experience for many kids.

2 Writing Underlying Problems

Condition phrase – info from Future Scene

Stem + Key Verb Phrase – main action goal to improve the situation (in bold)

Purpose – reason for the goal: in order to, so that (in italics)

Parameters – time, place, topic (they are underlined)



A. Because the three grade levels (6th, 7th and 8th) at our school tend to isolate themselves from each other, **how might we provide activities that involve students across grade levels** during the 2016-17 school year, *so that Eisenhower Middle School students can learn to appreciate each other more?*

B. Because many of the students at our school are guilty of bullying, teasing, and harassment, **how might we promote greater respect for each other** at Harrison High during the 2016-17 school year, *so that students will treat others in more positive ways?*

3 Writing Solutions

(Logical) Who – person, group, organization with power, interest, or expertise (PIE)

What – action they WILL take; use WILL

How and Why – details on how it will work and why it will be effective



A. Brainstormed phrase: homeroom with activities to get better acquainted

The principal and teachers will rework the schedule to include a 20-minute per day homeroom period. Homerooms will consist of 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who will engage in activities that encourage them to get better acquainted. This will allow students across grade levels to get to know each other more personally, thus leading to a greater appreciation of one another.

B. Brainstormed phrase: role-playing how to handle situations

Homeroom teachers will conduct role-playing activities to act out certain situations, such as name-calling, being excluded, harassment, etc. Discussions will follow each activity. Students will be more aware of what it feels like to be on the receiving end of such negative experiences, so will be more likely to respect and treat each other in more positive ways.

4 Writing Criteria

Single idea – One idea per criterion

Superlative – An “-st” word such as best, most, least, fastest, etc.

Desired Direction – What you DO want, not what you DON'T want



UP: Because the three grade levels (6th, 7th and 8th) at our school tend to isolate themselves from each other, how might we provide activities that involve students across grade levels during the 2016-17 school year, so that Eisenhower Middle School students can learn to appreciate each other more?

Type of Criteria	Example
DO use the <u>KEY VERB PHRASE</u> for one idea. (Advanced)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which solution will provide the most involvement between Eisenhower students across grade levels?
DO use the <u>PURPOSE</u> for another idea. (Advanced)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which solution will provide students with the opportunity to appreciate each other most?
DO write other criteria <u>SPECIFIC</u> to the topic and the Future Scene. (Advanced)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which solution best reduces grade level cliques? Which solution will best encourage students to continue to socialize on their own outside of school? Which solution best reduces the number of strained relationships among students?
Use <u>GENERIC</u> criteria only if you have to. Generic, or stock, criteria can be applied to solutions of any problem. (Generic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which solution will cost the least? Which solution will people like most? Which solution will be easiest to implement?
If you use generic criteria, dress up or <u>MODIFY</u> them with specifics from the Future Scene or topic. (Modified)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which solution will cost the least for Eisenhower Middle? Which solution will Eisenhower students like the most? Which solution will easiest to implement for Eisenhower teachers?
You can also <u>JUSTIFY</u> generic criteria with facts from the Future Scene. (Advanced)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because there have been more budget cuts in the district this year, which solution will cost the least for Eisenhower Middle?

6 Writing an Action Plan

Analysis	Example
1 Basic Solution Idea	The principal and teachers will reorganize the schedule to include a 20-minute per day homeroom period.
2 Details on how the plan will operate	Every teacher, no matter his/her subject, will have a homeroom. After attendance and announcements, teachers will conduct short activities that focus on getting acquainted, having fun, cooperation and decision-making. Some examples of such activities include “Find Someone Who,” classmate interviews, Cooperative Squares, games, puzzles, etc.
3 Timelines and tasks for implementing the plan	A development committee will be formed this summer, meeting 3 hours for each of 5 weeks to find and develop the activities. The new homeroom period and revised schedule will begin during the next school year. Certain core members of the development committee will continue to meet periodically to continually update and/or find new materials.
4 Solving a potential problem	Some teachers may not like having to work extra during the summer, so they will be given pay for their efforts. Other teachers may not like the idea of having another “class” to teach. However, a notebook will be assembled for each teacher containing the activities to be used. This will spare teachers any extra effort of having to come up with things to do in the homeroom.
5 How the plan will solve the UP and impact the Future Scene	The new homeroom activities will provide a way for students of all grade levels to become better acquainted and have fun together. When students get to know each other on a more personal basis, they will discover that they have much more in common than they thought. Thus, they will come to appreciate one another more as individuals, rather than a grade level to be scorned, competed with, and/or afraid of.