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Writing for thinking

Fish for Ideas

Keeping a notebook will help you to:

- Remember your ideas
- Think over your ideas
- Add to your ideas
- Change and improve your ideas

Your ideas are part of what makes you who you are. Take care of them!

Make lists

- Of categories and examples
- Of questions to ponder
- Of possible answers to your questions
- Of similarities and differences
- Of things that are important to you
- Of your opinions
- Think of reasons for opinions
- Write down thoughts you like
- Copy down sentences you like that are written by other people



- Expressing reasons**
Here are some different ways of expressing an opinion supported by a reason.
- This is a good school because most of the children are happy here.
 - Most of the children are happy in this school. It must be a good one.
 - Most of the children are happy in this school so it must be good.
 - This school is good. Most of the children are happy here.
- Do you think this is a good reason?*
- Expressing causes**
Here are some different ways of expressing a cause of something.
- Bullying causes unhappiness.
 - If you bully people, they will be unhappy
 - Unhappiness is the result of bullying.

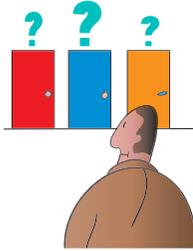
Alternatives are important

Think of, and write down, alternatives:

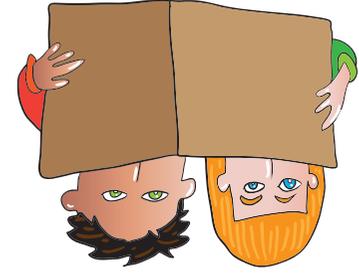
- For your ideas
- For your questions
- For your examples
- For your opinions
- For your reasons
- For your answers
- For ways of expressing your ideas in writing

So are consequences

What would be the consequences of choosing any of your alternatives? Which are the best alternatives? And why?



- Expressing similarities**
Here are some different ways of expressing a similarity.
- My pet cat is like a wild animal. It hunts other animals such as mice and birds.
 - My pet cat hunts birds and mice. It is wild in that way.
 - My cat is a hunter of mice and birds. It's wild.
- Expressing differences**
Here are some different ways of expressing a difference.
- My family look after my cat but wild animals look after themselves
 - Wild animals look after themselves but humans look after pets. We look after my pet cat.



- Offer to listen to other people read**
- Listen to others read their writing.
 - If they want, tell them what you think of their ideas.
 - Ask them questions about their ideas.
 - If they want, tell them what you think of their expression. Tell them what you thought the best bits were.
 - Ask them what *they* thought the best bits were.
 - Sometimes, just say: 'thanks for sharing your writing with me'.

Try freewriting

Freewriting is just getting on with writing without worrying about it. Just decide to write about something for a fixed time or to do a certain amount of writing. Then do it. Try not to stop and don't pause for too long. Say, 'I will write for five minutes' or 'I will write ten lines'. Free writing helps to get your ideas out.

If anything interesting comes up in your freewriting, copy it into your notebook.

Ideas for freewriting

- On some things I like.
- On some things I know about.
- On something I believe.
- On something I wonder about.
- On something I've read, watched or listened to.



When you write for others

- Make some lists of ideas you have about your topic.
- Try freewriting first to discover more of your ideas and get you started.
- Read your writing out loud to yourself in a quiet voice.
- Choose some bits that don't sound right and try out different ways of expressing what you want to say.

