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# To the Teacher

These writing-starter exercises are designed to be used for practice in paragraph writing and in simple expository writing.

Students write best if they write from their own experiences, and these writing starters provide that opportunity. Each page has the beginning of a paragraph on a subject with which most elementary-school students will be familiar.

Students also write well if they are first guided through a very structured exercise. Here, they are given a beginning. They must provide a continuation and an ending. Later, they can begin as well as complete their own paragraphs and short compositions.

The beginning of the paragraph on each page is about four or five sentences long. The beginning of the next sentence is then given. Students are to complete the sentence and continue writing a cohesive paragraph.

It would be best to reproduce a page for each student and allow him or her to write directly on the reproduced copy. This form of presentation should help students go right into writing a continuation that "flows" from what they are given. You should expect at least five full sentences.

Use these exercises wherever and whenever they fit into your own writing lessons.

## Variations

1. Give copies of the same page to all members of the class. After they write, have a number of students read their papers aloud. Point out the variety of responses created by different authors.
2. Give copies of different pages to all members of the class. After they write, have a number of students read their papers aloud. Discuss each paper in terms of logical continuation and ending, as well as clarity.
3. Have copies of different pages available to students to use for "extra credit" when they have finished with other class assignments. Students may select the ones they want to do from your stack of reproduced copies. (These exercises are a good length for moments that need to be filled; they also can be done on an individual basis, and there is a wide choice of topics.)
4. Use these exercises as class "openers." They can be done in just a few minutes, so they can be used as an opening exercise to focus students' attention and to get them quiet and working.













