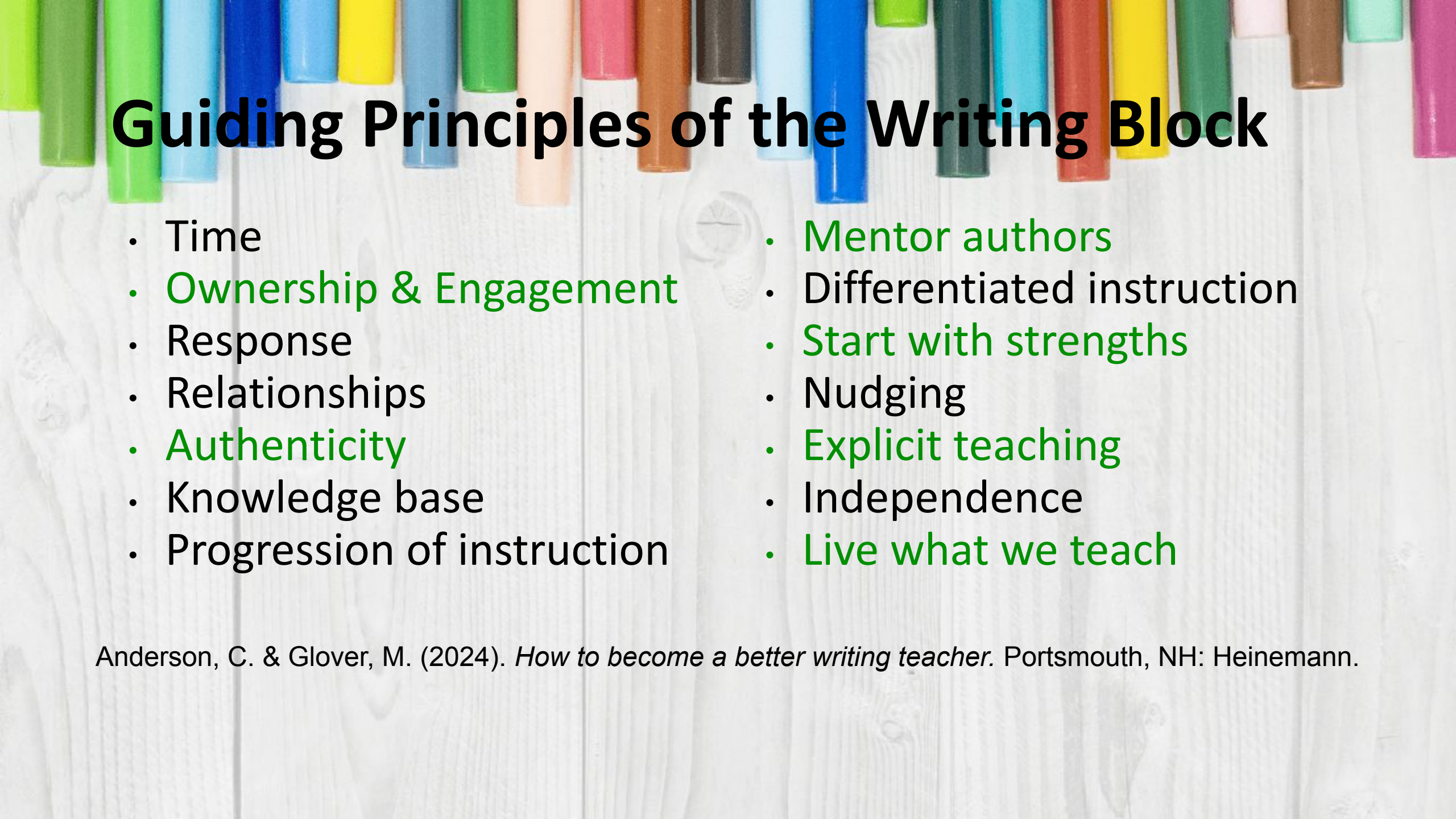




Good Practices Series: Finding Inspiration



Alberta **Regional** Consortia



Guiding Principles of the Writing Block

- Time
- Ownership & Engagement
- Response
- Relationships
- Authenticity
- Knowledge base
- Progression of instruction
- Mentor authors
- Differentiated instruction
- Start with strengths
- Nudging
- Explicit teaching
- Independence
- Live what we teach

Anderson, C. & Glover, M. (2024). *How to become a better writing teacher*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

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General Advice

- Start from personal experience
- Start from personal expertise
- Start from personal interest

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Finding Inspiration for Narrative Writing

- Personal Narrative
- Fiction



Personal Narrative - Important People

- Think of a person that matters to you.
- List small moments that remember sharing with this person.
- Choose one and write the memory bit-by-bit.

Calkins, L. et. al. (2016). *Units of study for teaching writing. Grade 3 Unit 1*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

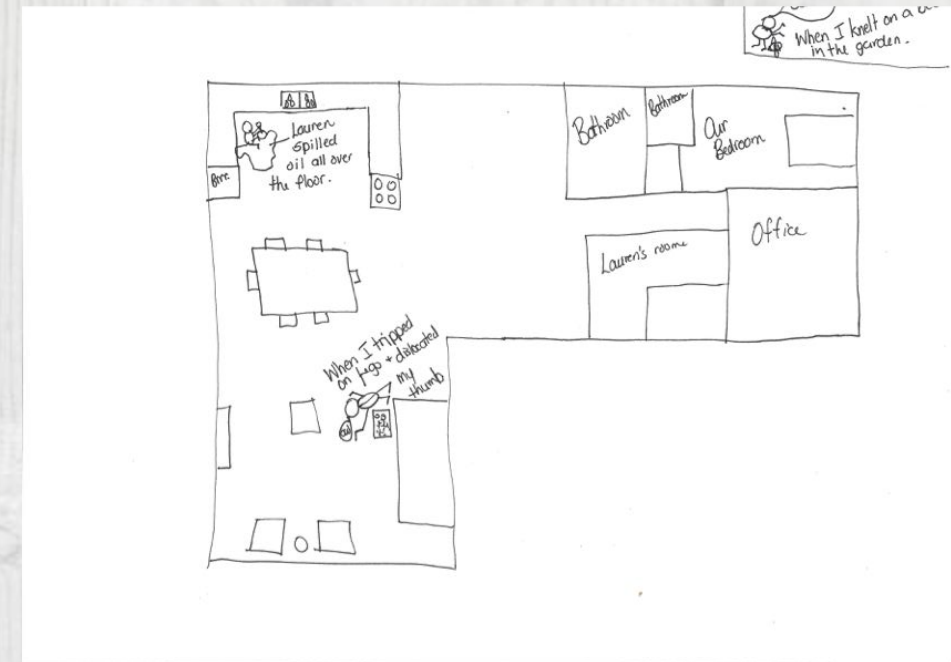
Serravallo, J. (2017). *The writing strategies book: Your everything guide to developing skilled writers*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Personal Narrative - Important Place

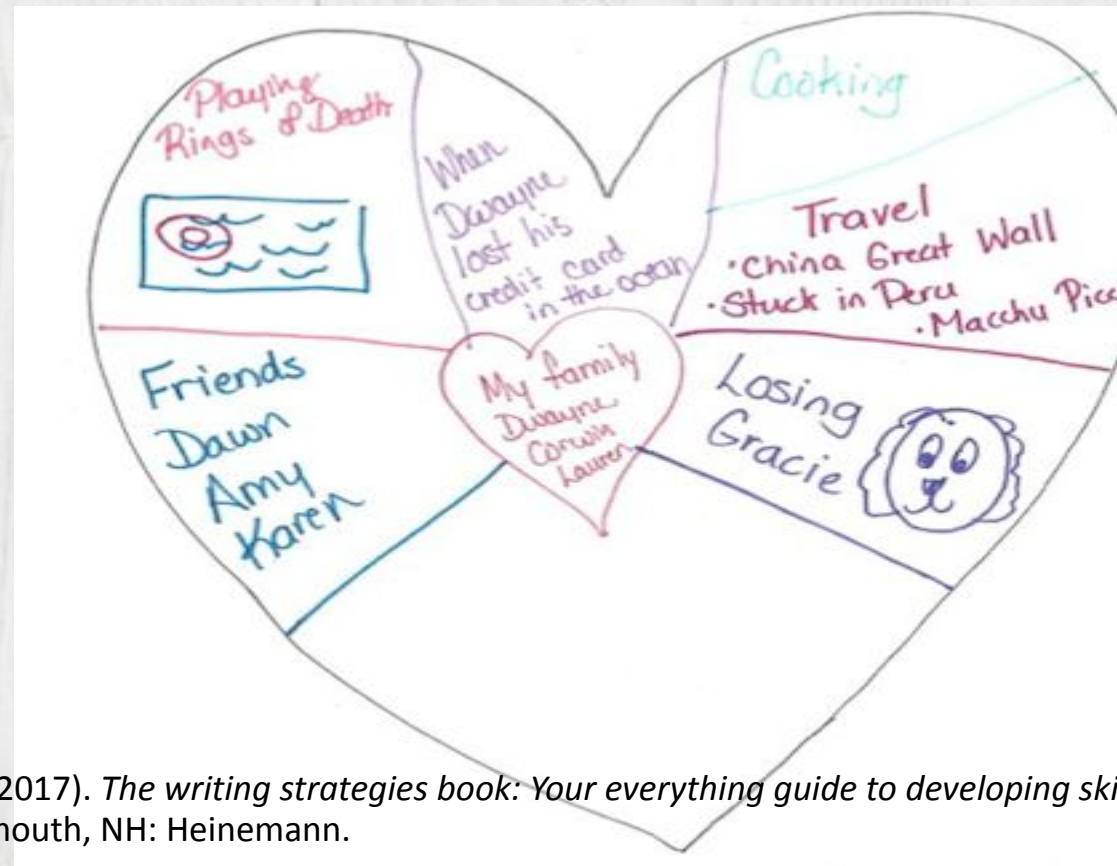
- Think of a place that matters to you.
- Draw a map of that place. Jot times you remember happening there.
- Choose one.
- Write the story.

Calkins, L. et. al. (2016). *Units of study for teaching writing. Grade 3 Unit 1.*

Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

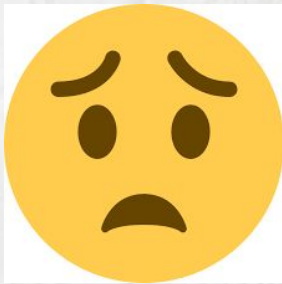


Personal Narrative - Mapping the Heart



Serravallo, J. (2017). *The writing strategies book: Your everything guide to developing skilled writers*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Personal Narrative - Strong Feelings

Feeling	Idea
Worried 	When Gracie escaped from the yard and got lost.
Angry 	When my niece broke my favourite toy.

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Narrative - Fiction

Adapt ideas from personal narratives

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Narrative - Fiction

- Think about an issue that is important to you and create a character who struggles with that issue.

Calkins, L. et. al. (2016). *Units of study in opinion, information, and narrative writing, grade 4*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.



Narrative - Fiction - What If...

1. Think of something **true and** real from your life.
2. Imagine, **“What if...”**
3. Let your imagination take you:

new character

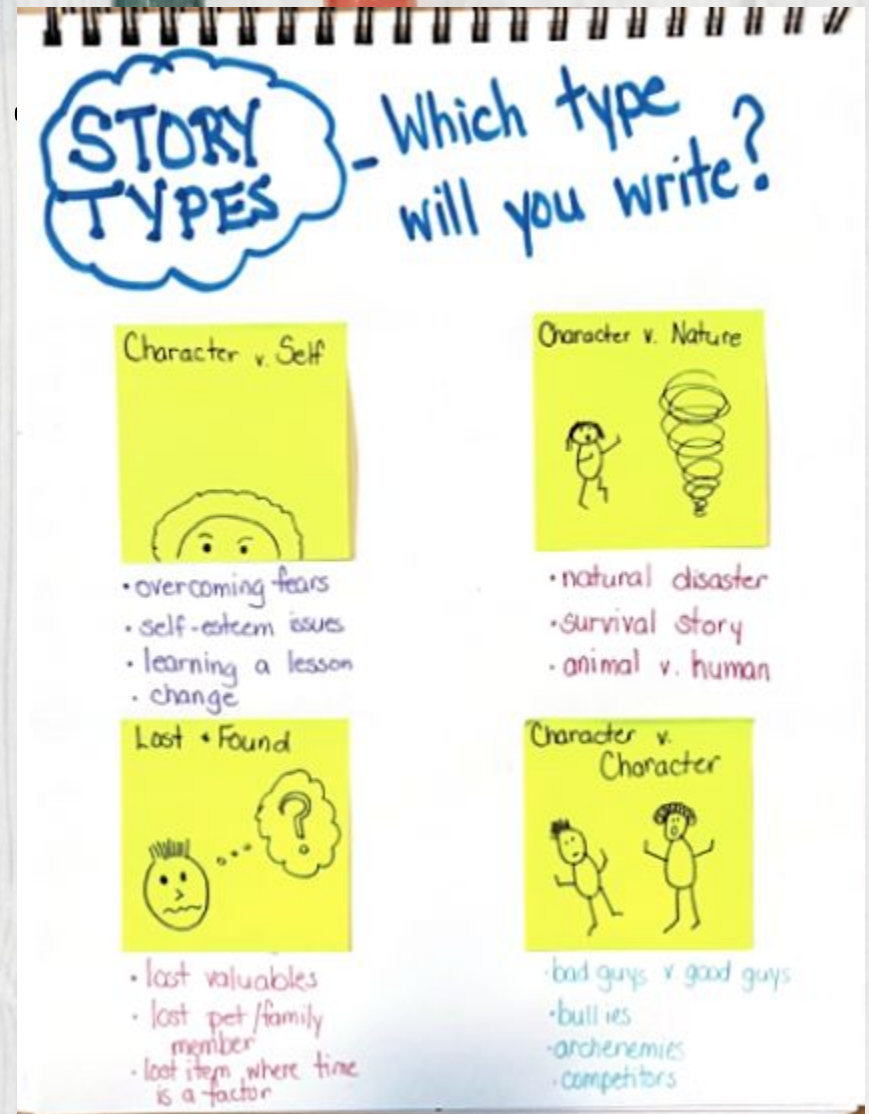
new plot

new theme

Narrative - Fiction - Story

- Create chart with students
- Find mentor texts as examples of each type or recall texts read
- Lost and found can also be a character is lost

Linder, R. (2015). *Chart sense for writing: Over 70 common sense charts with tips and strategies to teach 3-8 writing*. Atlanta, GA: The Literacy Initiative.



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Information - Personal Expertise

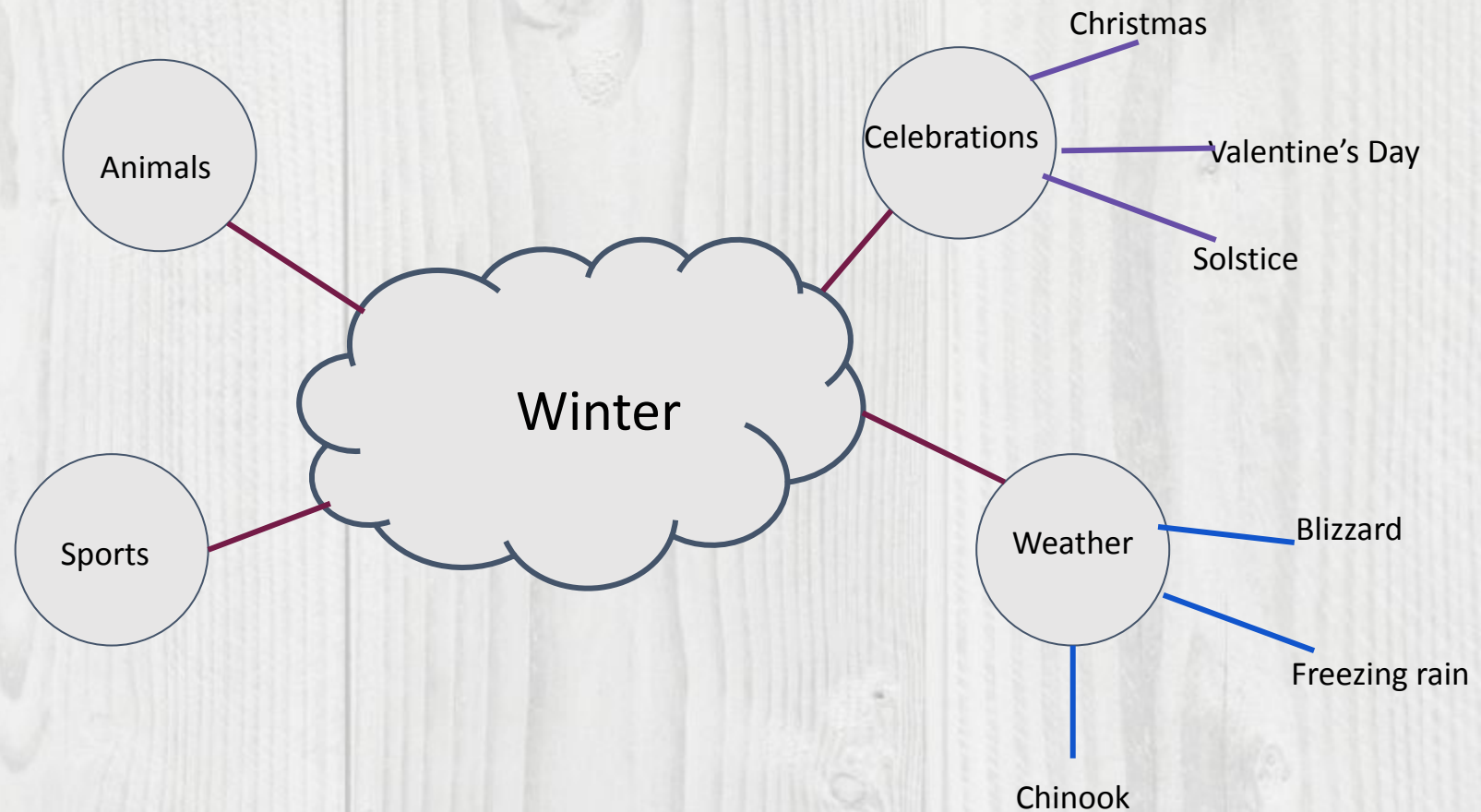
- Have students find topics that they already know a lot about
- List possible chapters/subtopics
- Begin writing each chapter/subtopic
- Determine where more information is needed
- Teach how to find information



Information Writing - Topics for

Things I do	Places I've been	Sports I play
Topics I've studied	Topics for Information Writing	Collections I cherish
Occasions I celebrate	Pop culture I fan over	Stuff people rely on me for

Information - Word Mapping

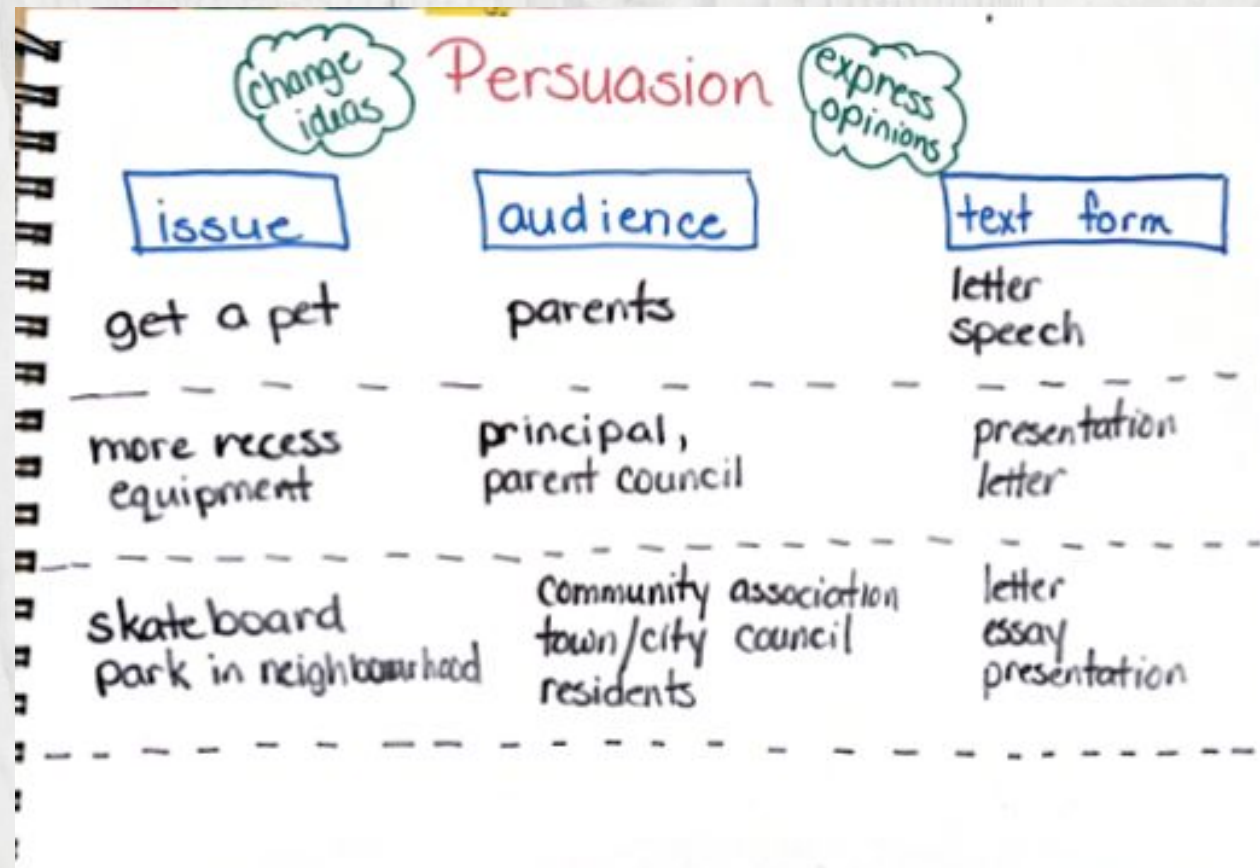


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Persuasive Writing

- Start from areas of personal interest or passions
- Model
- Sometimes it is helpful for students to work together on a common issue to begin with

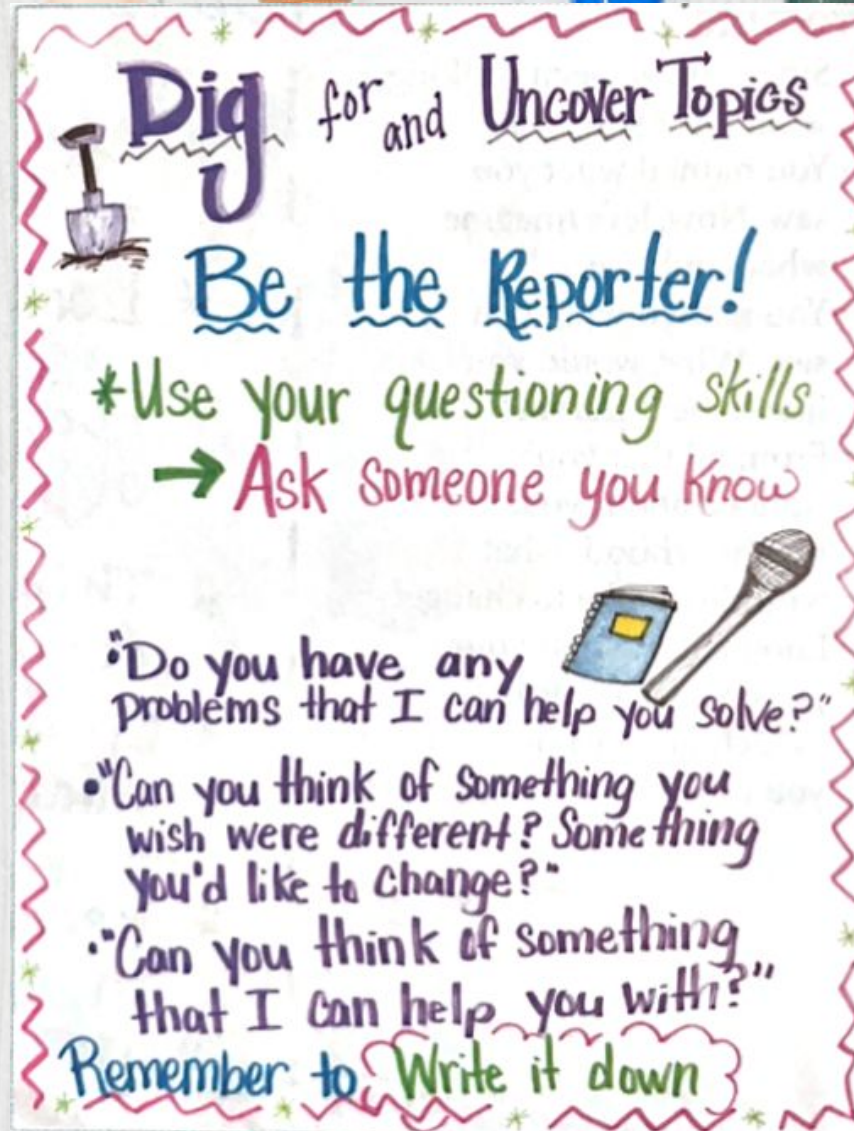
Persuasive - Writing to Change the World



A hand-drawn diagram on a spiral notebook page illustrating the components of Persuasion. The word 'Persuasion' is written in red at the top center. To its left is a cloud containing the text 'change ideas', and to its right is a cloud containing 'express opinions'. Below these are three blue-outlined boxes labeled 'issue', 'audience', and 'text form'. The table below lists examples for each category, separated by dashed lines.

issue	audience	text form
get a pet	parents	letter speech
more recess equipment	principal, parent council	presentation letter
skateboard park in neighbourhood	community association town/city council residents	letter essay presentation

Persuasive - Dig for & Uncover Topics



Serravallo, J. (2017). *The writing strategies book: Your everything guide to developing skilled writers*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

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Author to Author: Finding Ideas

<https://www.authortoauthor.org/author-videos-3/>



Writer's Notebook

- NOT a diary
- NOT a place we draft out writing
- A place to experiment
- A place to collect ideas, topics, etc.
 - questions
 - quotes
 - poems
 - lists
 - drawings, doodles
 - observations

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The Writer's Notebook

- <https://vimeo.com/363643980/2a7aed6d9f>
- <https://vimeo.com/355154648/0bbff15d96>
- <https://www.authortoauthor.org/>

Resources

