Planet Word

Planet Word inspires and renews a love of words, language, and reading in people of all ages. Through unique, immersive learning experiences, we provide a space to explore words and language that is grounded in a solid understanding of language arts and science.

Contact Us

If you have any feedback, please contact Caitlin Miller, Education Program Coordinator.

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Five Steps
There are five types of writing you must complete to earn your scribe badge:

1. Poem
2. Short Story
3. Personal Narrative
4. Article
5. Essay

Luckily, there are ways to gather inspiration for all 5 at Planet Word!

Complete the steps in this booklet in any order to earn your badge, then check out any exhibits you missed.

Note: You will have to do some writing at home after your visit to finish!

Map
Would you like a map? Scan this QR Code with your phone. You can also ask any staff member for directions.

Essay
The Whole Museum

What is an essay?
An essay is like an article- it includes facts- but it also includes the author’s opinion.

Instructions
Explore the rest of Planet Word with your family.

Write down the 5 most interesting facts you learn on these pages.

After you get home, write an essay about your visit to Planet Word. What can people see, do, and learn here? Be sure to include your thoughts and feelings- what did you like best and what did you like the least?

1. __________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________

2. _________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________

3. _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________

4. _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________

5. _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Personal Narrative

What is a personal narrative?
A personal narrative is a story about something that happened to you.

Instructions:
1. Visit the Words Matter gallery.
2. Listen to one of the people in the gallery speak about how words have mattered in their lives.
3. Go into the recording booth and tell your own story about how particular words have made a difference in your life.

Stumped?
Start with this prompt: “One word I use to describe myself is...”

Article

What is an article?
An article communicates important facts- not opinions- about a subject. An article also communicates the 5 W’s about a subject: who, what, when, where, and why.

Instructions:
1. Visit the Spoken World Gallery.
2. Use one of the iPads to “speak with” one of the language ambassadors and learn about a world language from Amharic to Zulu!
3. Write down 3 facts about the language you learned.
4. Include the 3 facts you recorded in a short article.
Short Story

What is a short story?

Every short story needs three things to get started:

1. Setting - when and where the story happens
2. Characters - the people or animals the story is about
3. Plot - the events that take place in the story

Instructions

Pick up a paintbrush and paint. What look is your favorite? Is it magical and hibernal? Magical and crepuscular? This is your setting.

What words did you choose? ___________________ and ___________________

Now look around your setting: there are many animals and people in the scene. Pick your favorite character - maybe it’s the deer, the frog, or the person near the city.

Who or what is your main character? ___________________

Now, imagine what might happen to your character, in your setting, once all the museum visitors go home and the scene comes to life - that’s your plot.

Notes on plot: _____________________________________________

Now all you have to do is finish your story.

Poem (Haiku)

What is a Haiku?

A haiku is a kind of Japanese poem that always follows the same pattern. Five syllables in the first line, seven in the second, and five in the third. Here is an example by poet Matuso Basho:

An old silent pond...
A frog jumps into the pond,
splash! Silence again.

Instructions

First, visit the Poetry Nook in Planet Word’s magical Library for inspiration. You’ll hear many types of poetry. Second, try writing your own haiku. The syllables are marked for you:

______  _______  _______  ________  _______

______  ______  _______  ________  _______

______  ______  _______  ________  _______  _______

Now all you have to do is finish your story.