

**WRITING: Using Writing Bingo
For Topic Setting
(Musselwhite, 2011)**

WHAT IS WRITER'S BINGO?

In *The Write Genre*, (2004), Rog and Kropp suggest using Writing Bingo to support students in setting topics. This strategy is an enjoyable way to help students think about topics that they might otherwise not have considered. The graphic shows a writing bingo form shared by Rog and Kropp. Their form presents a range of topic starters such as:

- holidays (My favorite holiday was . . .)
- scary things (Something that once scared me was . . .)
- accidents and injuries (I got this scar from . . .)

Writing Bingo

Name: _____ Date _____

My favorite holiday was	Something that once scared me was	I was really surprised when	At last
I felt ripped off when	I got this scar from	A really dumb thing I did was	I like it when my family
When I was little	Someone did a nice thing for me when	I was so mad when	I couldn't believe that
I'll never forget the time when	I got blamed for something I didn't do when	I was never so happy to see anyone as	I laughed so hard when

From: Rog & Kropp, (2004) *The Write Genre*, Pembroke Publishing

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Use this Writing Bingo form to help students develop ideas that can serve as future writing topics. Many teachers have students keep their Writing Bingo forms in their journal, to be pulled out on a day that they 'can't think of anything to write.'

Creating New Bingo Forms

For some students, 16 starters are overwhelming. Thus, we have created simplified forms, such as the one on the left, that offer fewer choices, and support beginning writers, whose print is larger. The form on the right was created to support students in writing a memoir for Mother's Day.

Writing Bingo About Me

Name: _____	Date: _____	
My favorite holiday was	I was so scared when	My best birthday was when
I love it when my Mom	My friend and I had so much fun when	My favorite thing to do with my family is

Writing Bingo Mother's Day

Name: _____	Date: _____	
Mom did this one holiday	It was so funny when Mom	My Mom's best advice was
I really admire Mom because	My favorite trip with Mom was	My Mom really likes it when I
My Mom is special because	A lesson I learned from Mom is	Mom is happiest when

A number of Writing Bingo Forms are on the *Write to Talk CD* (2011, Musselwhite & Hanser), including Bingo for: Earth Day, Winter Break, Autumn, Valentine's Day, Holidays, etc.

Resources & References

Musselwhite, C. & Hanser, G. (2011). *Write to Talk: CD of Writing Activities*. www.aacintervention.com carmussel@cox.net

Rog, L. & Kropp, P. (2004). *The Write Genre*. Markham, Ontario, Canada: Pembroke Publishers. ISBN: 9781551381725