

Lesson: Use Planning Strategies to generate topics and organize ideas (e.g., brainstorming, mapping, webbing, reading, discussion)

Fourth Grade Objective: 4.05 enrichment

Lesson

1. Writers find ideas for stories in many different ways. Some of the different ways include: writing about personal experiences, topics they know about, things they see or places they've visited, and even ideas they get from reading other books. In this lesson, you'll read a story and generate an idea for your own story based on the book AND places you visit.
2. Read Nothing Ever Happens on 90th Street by Roni Schotter. This is a story about a young girl, Eva, who complains that she has nothing to write about. As she goes about her neighborhood, she discovers plenty of ideas!
3. After reading the book, go to some (or all) of the following places and try to gather ideas for your own writing.
 - a. Sit on a bench at the mall
 - b. Go through the grocery store
 - c. Watch a music class
 - d. Go to a soccer, baseball, football, or basketball game
 - e. Hang out at the pool
 - f. Watch your brother or sister at play
 - g. Watch kids play at recess
 - h. Walk down your neighborhood street
4. Record the sights, sounds, the feel, and the action of the people in a chart labeled accordingly for each place you visit.
5. As you visit each place, observe carefully and don't forget the details! Use your imagination. Ask, "What if . . . ?"
6. If you observe carefully and organize your ideas in the chart, you will have brainstormed ideas for writing and organized them into categories. You now have a place to write about and good ideas for descriptions of that place!

Try these on your own!

Repeat the same activity, but go to new places. You may try:

- a. the library
- b. the cafeteria
- c. the park
- d. a friend's house
- e. a dance class
- f. an amusement park
- g. a movie theater

Check how well you did by using the following rubric:

4	Beyond <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chart includes 4 columns labeled sights, sounds, feel, and actions of people- Each column includes vivid descriptions for each category- The ideas you recorded really help a reader visualize what it must have been like to be at that place.
3	Meet Expectations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chart includes 4 columns labeled sights, sounds, feel, and actions of people- Each column includes appropriate descriptions for each category- The ideas you recorded help you remember the overall feeling of the place you visited.
2	Inconsistent: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chart includes 4 columns labeled sights, sounds, feel, and actions of people- Columns include descriptions that are limited in detail- When you look at your ideas, it is difficult to tell the overall feeling of the place you visited.
1	Not Present: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chart may not be organized- Some columns may not include any details- You were unable to generate ideas about the place you visited.