



Professional Development
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write out
NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT



RESOURCE COLLECTION

Write Out 2026

The National Writing Project's Write Out is a yearly initiative designed to connect people to their environment and community through place-based writing. In celebration of Write Out 2026, lilyPD has developed three classroom-ready activities to support place-based writing with every student. Explore the collection below or read more about them on our blog.



CREATING A VOCABULARY FIELD NOTE FOR THE LANGUAGE OF A PLACE

Just like a nature field guide records discoveries that happen in the wild, vocabulary field notes help us record discoveries about language. We can use this tool inside the classroom walls to study words.

In this Write Out 2026 activity, students carefully observe their writing place at a specific moment in time, and then create language to describe it. A field note entry captures what they have discovered about the language of this specific place at this specific time.

ENGAGING OUR HISTORICAL IMAGINATION IN PLACE-BASED WRITING

Historical imagination is our ability to see something in the present that is no longer there but was at some point in the past. This type of envisioning is a powerful comprehension strategy that can also more deeply connect students to place. Immersing themselves in the present and then imaginin the past, this writing activity helps students hone historical imagination in their outdoor writing place.



MINING MENTOR MOVES TO WRITE ABOUT A PLACE

This activity teaches students how to study a professional piece of nature writing for writing moves and then try them on in their own writing. This activity includes the teaching guide with two mentor texts (plus our annotations!)