

Friday Freewrites from Julie Bogart

Write about a day from the point of view of a dollar bill in a cashier's drawer.

One morning you discover you can speak to any animal of your choice. Which animal do you choose and what do you think you might talk about?

You have one trip you can make in a time machine. Do you travel to a point in the past or the future? Explain your choice.

Have you heard the saying: "I wish I could've been a fly on the wall"? Most people simply mean they wish they could have been a hidden observer. But what might that actually be like? Pick an event (historical or fictional or from your own life) and describe it from a pesky insect's point of view.

What if we were like fish and could only breathe and live underwater? Describe what a typical day might be like using as many water-related words as possible like: swim, dive, glide, submerge, float, splash, soaked, soggy, etc.

What's your favorite book? Now imagine that it's sitting on a library shelf and is hoping to be read but no one is choosing it! Write from the book's point of view, and have it give visitors at least three reasons why they should check it out.

You wake up and everyone in your family is now a superhero. Describe what breakfast might be like!

If a fountain has a "No Wading" sign posted but your friends are playing in the water anyway, would you join them? What if one of your friends fell and needed help? Explain.

Write an ad for an action figure based on YOU!

If you had to pick, which would you rather:

- walk barefoot in the ice and snow
- wear a heavy wool coat in the sweltering sun

Now write what that experience might be like!

Write a conversation your toes might have.

Imagine that, instead of walking or running, we danced everywhere we went. What might be the pros and cons to that?

Ever feel outside the group? Describe a time when you felt excluded.

It's after dark, the library is closed, and all the books come to life! Write what they might say to each other when no humans are listening.

If you had to stay in one place for the rest of your life which spot would you pick and why?

Imagine that your house is a museum and you are a tour guide. Write a script that you would use to show people your home (describe household items like they were the Mona Lisa!).

Here's a sample opening:

Hello, my name is _____. On behalf of (your homeschool), I welcome you to the (your last name) Museum. I will serve as your guide throughout the day and will be happy to answer any questions you may have...

What might it be like to live as a puppet? Who would you want (or not want!) to be your puppeteer? Share your reasons.

Do you enjoy doing things that draw attention to yourself? Why or why not.

Remember the last time you were “lost in thought.” Write what you were thinking about (and you don’t have to share your freewrite with anyone if you’d rather not).

Think of a tough decision you’ve made. Now turn that dilemma into a court scene and have two lawyers give closing arguments for the pros and cons of your choice.

Do you enjoy road trips? What might your family’s vehicle think of them? Write a conversation between one of the tires and the steering wheel.

You’re a spring flower that’s recently bloomed but then are hit by an unexpected freeze. Write your reaction as a monologue.

See the scene above? Write what happened before it then write what happened after (for instance, did they get in trouble or not?). Don’t include the pictured part in your tale. Leave that to your readers’ imaginations!

Write a fictional story starring you and your family! Imagine you’re shipwrecked on a deserted island. Highlighting your unique personalities, show how each might deal with the situation.

Imagine that a doll house is the size of your house. Now describe what it might be like to live in it for one whole day.

If you could send only one message to every person in the world what would it be? And share why you chose it.

Make a list of questions that every answer would be “no!” to. They wanted to read them out loud and we all shouted “NO!” after each one.

What do you think the phrase, “It’s never too late,” means? Do you agree that it’s never too late? Explain.

Do you interact differently with different people? Imagine bumping into these folks (individually) in a bookstore:

your dentist,

your grandmother,

your good friend,

your nemesis (rival).

Now write how the encounters might go. Would your behavior and way of speaking change? Are you still “the real you” with each person? Explain your answer.

Different cultures have different table manners. For instance, in some places slurping is frowned on. In others, it’s encouraged. If you could make your own etiquette rules for eating, what would they be?

Write about building a snowman (or woman!), either from your perspective or the snowman’s.

Think of something that started out new then gradually wore old. It might be a clean softball, a bike with no rust, a fresh coat of nail polish, or a brand new year. Tell the story of how it began bright and shiny then grew worn and well-used.

You discover that your best friend took money from her parents without asking so she could buy new shoes for a needy child who lives in her neighborhood. What would you do? Would you talk to her about it, tell her parents or yours, not do anything at all? Explain your answer.

Imagine that the different kinds of food on your plate are angry at each other. Write a scene with dialogue so we can hear them fight!

What is your relationship with sleep? Do you sometimes fight it, miss it, enjoy its company? Does sleep give you good dreams or bad dreams or both? Can you and sleep get along anywhere (like in the car or a strange hotel room)? Now, write a letter to sleep.

What is your favorite way of getting somewhere? Explain your answer.

List all the dishes that were prepared for Thanksgiving or whatever your last big meal was. Now pair a family member (based on personality) with each dish. Explain your choices.

Imagine a good friend needs a coat but can't afford it. You break your piggy bank and give him a generous gift so he can be warm in the winter. How would you feel if he bought something else instead? Is your friend obligated to purchase a coat with the money? Why or why not.

What if all people were exactly the same? What might be the advantages and disadvantages?

Candy has been banned in your city! Write a letter to the editor about that...from a piece of candy's point of view.

Finish the story:

"I slowly opened my eyes. Moonlight streaked across my blanket. I turned over and hoped to drift back to sleep. But...what was that sound? Scratch. Scratch. Scratch. Was it coming from under my bed?! I..."

A sore loser gets easily upset or angry when losing a game or contest. Describe what it's like to either be a sore loser or to play or compete with one.

Write a short story that's at least three sentences. Now put your last sentence first, your next to last sentence second, etc. until you've reversed the story. Make any tweaks needed like tense or transitional phrases.

Read both versions aloud. Which do you like better and why?

Imagine that you have a conversation with the moon. Now write it!

There are many definitions for “bolt.” See how many ways you can use the word in a story. Go!

Pick an action that doesn’t take long, like ringing a doorbell or sneezing. Now describe it in s-l-o-w motion at one second (or less!) intervals. Drag it out as long as possible!

For example:

My nose twitched. I crinkled it while slightly opening my mouth. I looked for a nearby tissue. There was none. I raised my arm and crooked my elbow in front of my face. My eyes closed. My head tilted back. My mouth opened wider. Wider. Wider. There was a pause. “Achoo!!”

Think of the last time you walked some distance. Now retell that event from the perspective of your shoes.

Take an ordinary activity in your life (like brushing your teeth, making the bed, or walking the dog) and describe it as a broadcaster would a BIG NEWS FLASH!

Pick one:

Explain how to jump to someone who’s never done it.

What’s the last activity you jumped into without preparation? How did it go

Describe an experience that made you jumpy.

Now write!

What’s your favorite TV show? Compare the episode you like best to the episode you like least.

This will test your memory! What were you doing one minute ago, one hour ago, one day ago, one week ago, one month ago, and one year ago? Write it!

What might these two say to each other? Write a conversation between the butterfly and the frog, and keep in mind that in nature, frogs sometimes prey on butterflies.

Think about a time when you competed and won (or lost). Now write about it from the perspective of an overly enthusiastic sportscaster or onlooker.

Do you agree that “opposites attract”? Why or why not.

You must live in one of two places for the rest of your life: outer space or underwater. Which will you choose and why?

Look at the image. Do you see a sunrise or a sunset? Now share a memory of a sunrise/sunset (whichever one you picked) and help us see it as you did.

Imagine there can only be one kind of instrument in the world. If you could choose, which instrument would it be and why?

Give the month of July a boastful personality and have it brag about why it’s the best month of the year.

Write a note to your future self then seal it in an envelope. Put a date on the envelope (it can be in one week, three months, a year, or whenever you choose!) then open it on that date and read it. Then if you’d like, write a note back to your past self.

Write about something that puzzles you.

You know that carton of eggs in your refrigerator? What would the eggs talk about while hanging out together? What if some of them didn’t get along? Write it!

You’re standing in line at a local ice cream parlor. The person in front of you, who you don’t know, goes to pay for a strawberry sundae but is fifty cents short. You have the extra money in your pocket. Do you offer to help and make up the difference? Why or why not?

What are your thoughts about self driving cars? Share three pros and three cons to letting a vehicle drive for you.

A friend asks you over to play cards on Saturday night. You say yes, and she tells you how much she's looking forward to it and that she's baking cookies. Saturday afternoon, though, another friend calls and says she has an extra ticket to a concert you were dying to attend (it was sold out), but it's also that night! "Will you go with me?" she asks. What do you do? Explain your decision.

What kind of dessert reminds you of your mom? Explain your answer.

Describe how you work toward a goal. Maybe it's building a model airplane or finishing a challenging book or putting together a 1000 piece puzzle! Are you impatient, methodical, haphazard, meticulous? Share examples to demonstrate your process.

Is lightning cool or scary or both? Do you like to watch it from your window or does it make you want to hide under the covers? Explain.

Are you a dash into the rain and get sopping wet kind of person or an always grab an umbrella before stepping a toe outside sort of person or somewhere in between? Explain your answer.

Imagine everything in the world was one color but you could pick it. Share which color you'd choose and why. What would it be like to live in an only one color world?