

Visual Writing Prompts

Link:

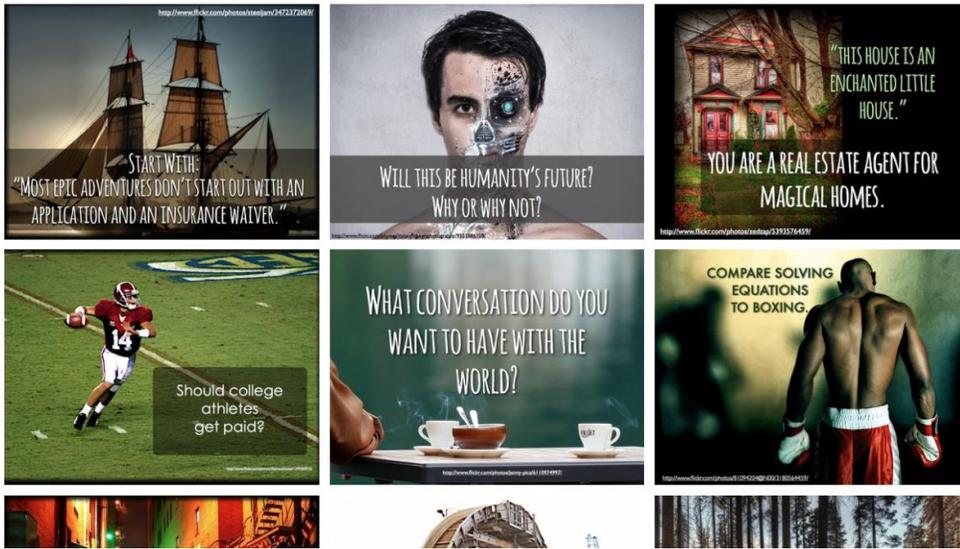
<http://visualprompts.weebly.com/view-all.html>



[VIEW ALL](#) [GENRE](#) [GRADE](#) [SUBJECT](#)

View All Visual Prompts

Clicking on the picture will take you to the prompt... eventually. However, we're still putting this thing together.



what is it?

- A collection of writing prompts that can be found online
- The prompts can be sorted by genre of writing

Search by Genre

Clicking on the picture will take you to the prompt... eventually. However, we're still putting this thing together.



- Prompts can also be sorted into suggested grade levels (*grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12*), and subject areas (*ELA, Social Studies, and Science/STEM*)
- The pictures in the prompts allow students to access the writing prompts through a visual manner
- Students may also be given the option to choose a writing prompt that they find interesting
- The diversity in the different writing prompts can help students strengthen certain genres of writing through a creative outlet
- It is free to access
- The writing prompts are often FUN! 😊

taking a deeper look

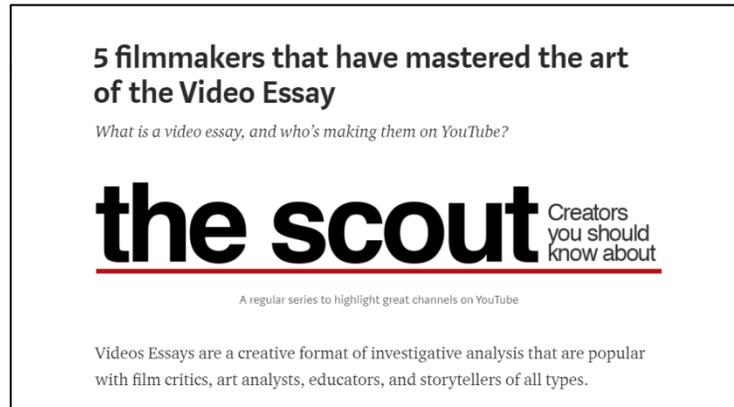
The Visual Prompts website can be an incredibly effective tool to help students gain access to different genres of writing. The accompanying visuals are often aesthetically provocative, and can help supplement and frame the topic in a way that makes the prompt less intimidating than a standard text-based prompt. Many of our students have a fear of writing, and see it as a daunting task with too many broad openings. However, anchoring the prompt within an image can add an additional layer of restraint that eases the anxieties of the hesitant writer. As a resource, it has also conveniently categorized the prompts into grade levels, genres, and subject matter – which can really help the user narrow down the focus/purpose of the writing activity. Giving students the ability to choose from a pre-selected group of prompts may also help entice and foster a student’s sense of autonomy over their writing. We are often concerned with providing students with multi-modal choices in their responses, but the Visual Writing Prompts remind us that multi-modality can be applied to from the site of instruction as well – how might the mode we choose to deliver instruction help or impede certain students from accessing the content?

This resource would be wonderful for students who struggle to start their written pieces. The majority of our students see writing prompts as vast open spaces with few constraints they can use as footholds. With Visual Prompts, the image itself plays an integral role in the discussion – with the image itself sometimes being the focal point of the prompt. A great way to gradually integrate the Visual Prompts as a writing prompt, is to scaffold it from a discussion piece to, eventually, a writing piece. Students can be given the opportunity to practice responding to writing prompts orally, allowing them to bridge and connect how our verbal responses might mirror our written ones.

Video Essays

Link:

<https://medium.com/seriesoftheweek/5-filmmakers-that-have-mastered-the-art-of-the-video-essay-9667f7b2ee9c>



what is it?

- This article highlights five prominent video essayists that can be found on Youtube
- It highlights how the traditional written essay has now found a new audio-visual platform
- Video essays often follow the traditional format of written essays: Intro (thesis), supporting bodies, and a conclusion.
- Video essays normally revolve around texts and stories found in film/television – a focus on visual story-telling – which makes them very accessible
- Content usually connects well with the interests of youth
- Getting students to produce/respond through video essay will allow them to access the same forms found in essay-writing, but through speech.
- Accessing writing through speech may help students connect the nuances and flow found in speech to the ones found in writing



taking a deeper look

Video Essays are a rising phenomenon on video platforms, such as Youtube. Similar to the traditional written essay, video essays have added an audio-visual element to the traditional essay form – images, videos, voice, and music. The majority of video essays are centered around topics steeped within popular culture, which make them easier to digest for the hesitant reader. The literary values found in video essays can be accessed either through the role of the consumer or the producer. Since video essays usually mirror the same form as written essays – intro, thesis, supporting bodies, and a conclusion – students may be asked to deconstruct a chosen video essay. This may include identifying the structure of the presented argument, as well as a practice in visual literacy – how have the accompanied images informed your understanding of the argument being made? From the producer side, students can be asked to create their own video essays. In doing so, they still need to consider the form of an essay, and how the structure may affect the effectiveness of their piece. Students will also be required to think through visual accompaniment, as well as what music might speak to their topic. Through the production of a video essay, students will also be asked to speak out their argument, helping them connect the nuances of voice in speech, to voice in writing – a connection that many students have difficulty making if they are only accessing voice through writing.

The video essay would be a valuable resource for the majority of students, but particularly those who may struggle or feel anxious about writing essays. Students will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the form and delivery of an essay through the accessible means of a Youtube video. Considering that the production of

video essays requires proficiency with digital movie making tools, it is suggested that, as a project/assignment, they be used at the senior grade-levels. That being said, the video essay would be a phenomenal tool in the ELA classroom (and any other content-area), as it helps students practice both their writing and speaking skills, while simultaneously bridging the divide between both modes of expression. Additionally, when choosing video essays, one should be weary of the content that might be presented – not all video essays are well done. It may also be important to engage the class in a discussion around the topic of reliability, and whether or not the modality of the video essay allows room for discourse between the author and the audience.

References

Kaye, J. (2016, January 17). 5 filmmakers that have mastered the art of the Video Essay.

Retrieved July 25, 2018, from <https://medium.com/seriesoftheweek/5-filmmakers-that-have-mastered-the-art-of-the-video-essay-9667f7b2ee9c>

Visual Writing Prompts. (n.d.). Retrieved July 25, 2018, from <http://visualprompts.weebly.com/>