WICKED WRITING SKILLS

OVER 90 NON-FICTION ACTIVITIES

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How to use this book

This activity book follows on from Creative Writing Skills, which explored the key aspects of fiction writing. In this book, we focus on non-fiction. We will cover opinions, debates, instructions, news, recounts, and marketing. In each section, there are a variety of activities designed to build skills and confidence, plus lots of author tips. The last section is packed with fun non-fiction writing sparks.

Although the activities are grouped into topics, it's not necessary to work through the book in any particular order.

The activities are aimed at children aged seven to eleven but, since there are no right or wrong answers, there's no reason why any child can't have a go, regardless of age or ability.

Warning: there are a few activities that need to be done with friends or family, so you might be asked to join in!

TOP SECRET: FOR AMAZING WRITERS ONLY

Although non-fiction includes FACTS and OPINIONS, it still uses lots of creative writing skills.

Some similarities are:

- it might not have a main character, but it has a main point
- it doesn't have a plot, but it has a structure

Great non-fiction is *persuasive* and *powerful* and could even *change* the world.

In this workbook you're going to learn the top-secret tricks and techniques that:

- businesses use to persuade people to buy their products
- politicians use to persuade people to agree with their views
- journalists use to write articles we want to read

And don't forget, this book is NOT about spelling and punctuation and grammar (although they're obviously great to have in your toolkit). It's about writing wicked non-fiction. It's about making you into an **AMAZING WRITER**.

Let's get started then.

Contents

1 Outrageous opinions

2 Dynamite debates

3 Inventive instructions

4 Nuclear news

5 Tell-tale time

6 Marketing mayhem

7 Wicked writing sparks

Chapter One

Outrageous opinions

Everyone loves sharing their opinion, especially when people agree with them. Your job is to make the points clearly, then it's up to the reader (or listener) to decide if they agree or disagree with you.

DID YOU KNOW

You can't be sued for an honestly held opinion? That's why restaurant reviewers and film critics can say things like "*This movie is so boring, you'd better take pyjamas,*" or "*The steak was as tough as shoe leather*".



Here's the secret formula for opinion writing:

a clear position + strong arguments = a convincing case

Step 1: State your position on the matter
Don't forget to give the reader a CLUE that it's an opinion in your first line. You could say something like "I think" or "I believe".

Step 2: Build a strong argument
Use facts and examples to back up your opinion. Don't forget to start each new point as a paragraph to make it easy for the reader to follow your logic.

Step 3: Draw your conclusion
Make sure your conclusion packs a powerful punch.



Even if it's tempting, try not to make up arguments. Hard facts and real examples are far more likely to persuade the reader to agree with you.

Once upon a time

"Once upon a time" is a famous story starter, but it doesn't really work for persuasive writing. Here are some great ways to start writing about your opinion...

I THINK ...

I BELIEVE ...

I FEEL ...

THE BEST ...

MY FAVOURITE ...

IN MY OPINION ...

SPEAKING FOR MYSELF ...

I STRONGLY BELIEVE ...

I OPPOSE ...

FROM MY POINT OF VIEW ...

IT'S MY BELIEF THAT ...

I AM FOR ...

I AM AGAINST ...

I SUPPORT ...

BASED ON MY EXPERIENCE ...

Answer each of these questions using a **different** opener each time.



1. Should everyone learn a foreign language?

2. Should pets be allowed in school?



3. Should it be compulsory to go for a run before work or school?



4. Should weekends be three days long?



5. Should school start earlier?



6. Are self-driving cars dangerous?

