

UNSOLVED

WRITING ACTIVITIES (OPTIONAL)

These fun activities have been designed to get your students thinking about creating suspense and atmosphere, as well as considering their content and style when faced with a 100-word limit!

You can use them in various ways, such as choose one crime and complete all the activities, do each activity focusing on a different type of crime, or split your students into 4 groups and they each do one activity! (The story starter postcards can also be used.)



Exhibit A - Setting The Scene

Pick one of the 8 story starters (provided below and in the pack) for this activity. Read it out to your students then ask them:

- Where is this happening? (The setting)
- Who is their main character? (The protagonist)
- What has happened/will happen next? (The plot)
 - Why? (The motive)

Two-minute challenges:

Your students can be inspired by the story starter or follow on from it:

- Is their character on the right or wrong side of the law? Why?
- Write the opening sentence to their mini saga using action.
- Write the opening sentence to their mini saga using dialogue.
 - Which opening style do they prefer? Why?

Exhibit B - Crime Scene Investigation

Your students need to imagine their character is at a crime scene:

- Where is this happening? (The setting)
- Who is their main character? (The protagonist)
- What has happened/will happen next? (The plot)
 - Why? (The motive)

Two-minute challenges:

- Describe a clue found at the crime scene.
- Write a short paragraph describing how their character feels.
- Write a sentence about where the crime has been committed using imagery to create atmosphere.
- Write a newspaper headline for the crime and a short paragraph to explain what has happened.

Exhibit C - Courtroom Drama

The courtroom has lots of character and plot potential! Will students be the judge? A juror? A witness? A lawyer? (The defendant has been purposely missed out!)

- Who is their main character? (The protagonist)
- What has happened/will happen next? (The plot)
 - Why? (The motive)

Two-minute challenges:

- Write a short paragraph from your character's point of view that challenges the defendant's alibi for the crime.
- Write a short paragraph from the defendant convincing the reader of their innocence.
- Give students the same story starter - ask them to write two opening sentences - one from the defendant's point of view and one from a witness'.

Exhibit D - Evade Or Serve Justice?

Justice isn't always served... your students could use this opportunity to explore different points of view and tackle the themes of justice / injustice:

- Who is their main character? (The protagonist)
- Where is the character? (The setting)
- What has happened/will happen next? (The plot)
 - Why? (The motive)

Two-minute challenges:

- Write a short paragraph from a prisoner's point of view who has been wrongly accused.
- You are a juror seeing crime scene evidence for the first time, write a short paragraph about how you feel.
- You're a witness in a 30-year-old cold case, there's been a new lead which shows the wrong criminal has been convicted of the crime. Write a short paragraph about what you would do.

STORY STARTER IDEAS

YOUR STUDENTS COULD USE ONE OF THESE TO START OR INSPIRE THEIR WORK!

(THEY NEED TO BE INCLUDED IN THEIR 100-WORD LIMIT!)

• **People think the dead can't talk...**

• **A shadow at the door...**

• **"Guilty!"...**

• **It just didn't add up...**

• **I'd found a clue...**

• **The suspect was gone...**

• **The lie detector results were back...**

• **I had an alibi...**