

I Don't Know What To Write About!

Collecting Memories to Devise a Topic List

Connection

This weekend, I was looking through my picture album. I came across pictures of when I first met Dixie. I bet you want to know who Dixie is. Well, Dixie is my dog. (*show picture*) I remember it freshly in my mind like it happened yesterday. When I first saw her, she was so petite and her fur was soft like cotton. She slept peacefully in my lap on the way to her new home.

You know, as I get older and make new memories, I might not always remember exactly everything about the first time I met Dixie. I think a good idea would be to write all about it. So today, we are going to talk about writing down special memories.

Teach

Not only do I have wonderful memories about Dixie, but I have great memories about my family. I remember when my mom, dad, and I would take family vacations each summer. When we went to Florida once, I remember Dad digging a hole in the sand that was so huge, I climbed in and was up to my neck in sand! I think that would be a good memory to write about, too. I know, let's make a chart to write down all the wonderful memories. (*make a chart entitled: My Special Memories... write down... I remember meeting Dixie for the first time. I remember climbing in Dad's giant hole in the sand.*) Now, I am not going to write about the memories today. I am just going to start making a memory list. Then when we begin to start writing, you'll have a list to choose ideas from.

Active Engagement

I bet from listening to my memories, it sparked a few memories of your own that you want to share. So right now, turn to your partner and talk about some of your special memories. (*dip in and listen to their conversations. After a minute or so, get their attention and make a comment on something that you heard. Or ask someone to share what you heard. Write down their responses and next to it, write their name.*)

Link

So today when you go back to your seats, take out your handy dandy writer's notebook. Start a list of memories just like what we have done today. Start with I remember and then write your memory.

Follow Up

(*After the writing portion of the lesson is over, call students back to the carpet to share some of their topic list. Call on different students than you did in the active engagement part. Record their responses on the chart with their name.*)