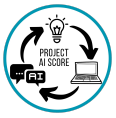




Mastering Writing Prompts: The Do What Strategy



What is the Do What Strategy?

- A step-by-step method to understand writing prompts
- Helps you break down and analyze assignment instructions
- Ensures you complete all parts of an assignment correctly



Why Do You Need This Strategy?

- Avoid misunderstanding assignment requirements
- Improve your ability to follow instructions
- Boost your confidence in tackling writing tasks
- Reduce stress when facing complex writing assignments



Step 1: Read the Prompt Carefully

- Slow down and read the entire prompt
- Read it more than once if needed
- Ask yourself: "What is this prompt asking me to do?"
- Tip: Highlight or underline key words as you read



Step 2: Identify the "Do" Words

- Look for action verbs that tell you what to do
- Common "Do" words include:
 - Analyze
 - Describe
 - Compare
 - Explain
 - Argue
- Circle or highlight these action words



Step 3: Identify the "What"

- Determine the specific topic or subject
- Ask yourself: "What am I writing about?"
- Look for nouns or specific content areas
- Example: If the prompt says "Describe your favorite hobby"
- "Do" = Describe
- "What" = Your favorite hobby



Step 4: Check Additional Details

- Look for important instructions like:
- Length requirements
- Formatting guidelines
- Specific sources to use
- Target audience
- These details help you meet all assignment requirements



Example: Analyzing a Prompt

- Prompt: "Write a three-paragraph essay explaining how technology impacts your daily life"
- "Do" = Write a three-paragraph essay
- "What" = Technology's impact on daily life
- Additional details:
 - Three paragraphs
 - Focus on personal experience



Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Skimming the prompt quickly
- Ignoring specific instructions
- Forgetting to check formatting requirements
- Not asking for help when confused



Practice Makes Perfect

- Try the Do What strategy with different prompts
- Ask a friend to review your analysis
- Practice breaking down prompts regularly
- Don't get discouraged if it feels challenging at first



When in Doubt, Ask!

- If you're unsure about a prompt, ask your teacher
- Clarify any confusing instructions
- It's better to ask than to guess



Benefits of the Do What Strategy

- Improves reading comprehension
- Enhances writing skills
- Builds confidence in school work
- Helps you become a more independent learner



Quick Checklist

- ☐ Read the entire prompt
- ☐ Identify "Do" words
- ☐ Determine the "What"
- ☐ Check additional details
- ☐ Ask for help if needed



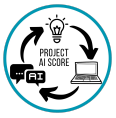
Your Turn to Practice!

- Take a writing prompt from a recent assignment
- Apply the Do What strategy
- Break down the prompt step by step
- Reflect on how this method helps you understand instructions



Conclusion: Become a Prompt Pro!

- The Do What strategy is your secret weapon
- Use it for all writing assignments
- Stay confident and organized



**Interested in learning more?
Check out WritingClassroom.org**