

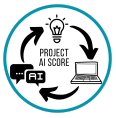


Do What Writing Prompt Analysis Strategy



Introduction

- Do What is a powerful prewriting strategy for students in Grades 4 and up
- It helps students break down and understand writing prompts completely
- It ensures students meet all assignment requirements



What is the Do What Strategy?

- A method to analyze writing prompts systematically
- Focuses on two key components: "Do" and "What"
- Helps students understand exactly what the prompt is asking



Why is This Strategy Important?

- Promotes careful analysis of writing instructions
- Keeps student writing focused and on-topic
- Reduces the chance of misunderstanding assignment requirements
- Supports a structured writing process



Step 1: Read the Prompt Carefully

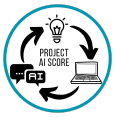
- Read the entire prompt from start to finish
- Take your time and read slowly
- Ask yourself: "Do I understand everything in this prompt?"



Step 2: Identify the "Do" Words

- Look for action verbs in the prompt
 - These tell you what you need to do
- Underline or highlight these words

DO	WHAT



Examples of "Do" Words

- Explain: Provide detailed information
- Compare: Show similarities and differences
- Analyze: Break down and examine carefully
- Argue: Present a clear position with supporting evidence
- Describe: Give a detailed account



Step 3: Identify the "What"

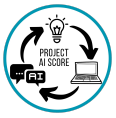
- Determine the specific topic or subject
- What are you writing about?
- Look for the main subject of the prompt
- Circle or highlight the key subject

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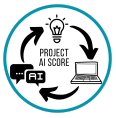
Step 4: Look for Additional Details

- Check for audience specifications
- Note any formatting requirements
- Look for word count or length guidelines
- Consider any specific instructions



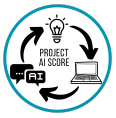
Clarification is Key

- If anything is unclear, ask your instructor
- Don't be afraid to seek help
 - It's better to ask now than submit an incorrect assignment!



Practice Example

- **Prompt:** "Explain how climate change impacts local ecosystems"
- **"Do":** Explain
- **"What":** Climate change's impact on local ecosystems
- **Additional details:** Requires a clear, informative explanation



Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Skimming the prompt quickly
- Ignoring specific instructions
- Failing to address all parts of the prompt
- Not seeking clarification when needed



Benefits of Do What Strategy

- Improves writing focus
- Reduces off-topic writing
- Increases assignment success
- Builds critical reading skills



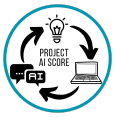
Practice Time!

- Take a writing prompt:

A character in a story struggles with social anxiety or difficulty making friends. Identify the problem and suggest a course of action the character could take, drawing on techniques like joining clubs, practicing positive self-talk, or seeking support from a school counselor.

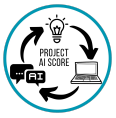
- Apply the Do What strategy (create a chart)
- Break down the "Do" and "What"
- Check your understanding

DO	WHAT



Final Thoughts

- Do What is a powerful writing tool
- Practice makes perfect
- Use this strategy for all writing assignments to make it a habit for your students



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