



All you need is a pen/ pencil and paper, or type away, give it a go.

Below are some writing prompts to get you started.

YouTube writing tutorial available thanks to Dr Clare Scott:

<https://youtu.be/e0UwP-KgLbk> and <https://youtu.be/86mBTlgsek>

OR www.acgc.co.uk

Option 1

1. Find a magazine, book or newspaper
2. Open this onto a random page
3. Pick a line from this page and use it as the first line of your own work
4. Write or type this line on an empty page then continue to write a poem/ short story / script based on this.

Option 2

You wake up with the superpower of your choosing, write about what happens next.

Option 3

Write a short story starting with the following, "Quick, the police will be here any minute"...

Option 4

Describe your mood in one sentence.

Option 5

Oxymoron –Two words together for contradictory effect...

Jumbo Shrimp / Act Naturally / Deafening Silence / Good Grief/ Loud Whisper

- **Come up with a list of your own oxymorons. Use them in your writing.**

Option 6

Haiku

A haiku is traditionally a Japanese poem consisting of three short lines that do not rhyme. They usually follow the 5 - 7 - 5 pattern, with the first line consisting of any number of words that make up a total of 5 syllables, the second line will consist of words totalling 7 syllables, finishing with the third line of 5 syllables.

Examples of haiku:

The crow has flown away:
swaying in the evening sun,
a leafless tree.
By Natsume Soseki

An old silent pond...
A frog jumps into the pond,
splash! Silence again.
By Matsuo Basho

A world of dew,
And within every dewdrop
A world of struggle.
By Kobayashi Issa

- **Create your own haiku, with such few words, make each word count.**

Option 7

Using the 5 senses to guide your writing.

- **Write a short story or a poem focussing on 1 of the senses.**
- **Then maybe try another, focussing on a different sense.**
- **Finally write something and try to include all 5 senses.**

Sight: what we see, for most of us this is a really strong experience. Words can describe colour, shape, appearance – dazzling, gigantic, gloomy, dark, long, reddish, crooked, gleaming, rectangular.

Smell: this can evoke images/ memories- a perfume from childhood, something horrible – stale, stench, antiseptic, fragrant, sour, sweet.

Sound: describe what can be heard - the chugging of a train, thumping, crashing, thud, patter, rustle, squeak, sizzle, hiss.

Taste: add a description of taste- the sharpness of apples in the autumn, tantalizing, herby, watery, spicy, bitter, bland, fresh.

Touch/ Feel: think about words to explain the touch/ feeling- the sense of cold air to the nostrils on a winter night, dry, burning, sticky, moist, grainy, smooth, pointy, rough, cold.

Option 8

List 5 sound you like and 5 sounds you don't like. Look at each of the words, think about them, what images do they summon? Now choose one of these word and use it to inspire a piece of writing.

Further writing exercise focusing on 'sound' can be found on an the Arts Care Gofal Celf online writing tutorial by Dr Clare Scott via YouTube: <https://youtu.be/e0UwP-KgLbk>

Option 9

Hand poem

Think about what has your hand has held, what it has touched in its lifetime, what has it experienced?



Draw around your own hand on a piece of paper, then think about what your hand means to you.

Write a poem. You could write this around the outline of your hand, you could fill in each finger with words, write across you palm, up to you.

It is your hand, your poem.

More details on this task as well as other tasks focussing on 'touch' can be found in one of Arts Care Gofal Celf's online creative writing workshops led by Dr Clare Scott available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/86mBTlgsek>

Option 10 (taken from workshop led by Arts Care Gofal Celf's Dr Jane Belli)

Do you remember the first time you were allowed to do something away from home that made you feel like an adult?

Below is a suggestion about what your writing may contain and how these bits of writing can be described.

What was this? (Story) What did you do? (Plot) How did it come about? (Exposition) Who else was there? (Dialogue?) How did you feel? (Interior Monologue?)

Remember: if you don't want to talk about yourself, make it up! Fiction is a major part of creative writing.

Option 11

Limericks

A limerick is a humorous poem consisting of five lines with a strict rhyme scheme of AABBA. The first, second, and fifth lines must have seven to ten syllables while rhyming and having the same verbal rhythm. The third and fourth lines are shorter and should only have five to seven syllables; they too must rhyme with each other with a different rhythm to the other 3 lines.

Example:

There was an Old Man with a beard
Who said, "It is just as I feared!
Two Owls and a Hen,
Four Larks and a Wren,
Have all built their nests in my beard!"
By Edward Lear

A combustible woman from Thang
Exploded one day with a BANG!
The maid then rushed in
And said with a grin,
"Pardon me, madam -- you rang?"
By Spike Milligan

- **Have a go at writing your own limerick.**

Option 12

Take a random word or phrase from the list below, use it as a starting point for a story, poem or limerick.

Some examples of words and resulting titles that have inspired participants in Arts Care Gofal Celfs projects with Dr Jane Belli below:

- Sunshine
- The Coffee Shop
- Serendipity
- The Message
- Broken Wing
- Shopping bugbears
- Home
- The Three C's
- A Simple Twist of Fate
- Invisible
- Saying Goodbye