

### Writing: *Looking Out the Window*

This is an activity to use toward the end of the quarter to help students prepare for their writing assessment and to practice writing a simple narrative. It is also an opportunity to help our students learn that writing is a process, and not something that they do one time and hand off to the teacher to correct.

1. Brainstorm with students the things they might expect to see when they look out a window. Make a list of things on the board; try to include nouns and verbs...prompt students if they need help thinking of things. You could also begin this activity by handing out the pictures (see below).
2. Messenger - scribe (see *Writing for Fluency* on the ESOL faculty website for more information about doing messenger-scribe activities) Have one student from each group be a messenger, that student reads the passage and repeats it to the group. The group members listen and write the sentences. When everyone is finished have students dictate the story to you while you write it on the board then have the students correct their sentences. Ask students the question from the messenger-scribe activity. Refer back to the list you brainstormed, add to the list if new words come up in your discussion.

Ana lives in New York City. Her apartment is on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of the building. She likes to look out the window. She sees many different things every day. What do you think she sees?

3. Next cut the story below (p.3) into strips, handout the scrambled story strips to groups and have the students put the story in the correct sequence. When they are finished read the story as many times as needed while students correct any mistakes in their sequencing. When students finish put them in pairs and have them complete the cloze activity. To expand this activity you can have them write questions about the story for other groups to answer.

4. Handout the pages with the pictures on them to student pairs or small groups. Refer to the activities you've completed above and add things to your list on the board. Instruct students to work together and write a story about their picture. *For lower students/classes, use the cloze story they completed (from activity above) as a model, or create a set of questions to guide them in their story writing.*
  
5. The final part of this writing activity is to help students edit and revise their writing. There are many ways to do this. Here are a few suggestions:  
(Please also see *Writing for Fluency* for more suggestions on how to work with revising and editing)
  - a. Round robin the papers and let other groups read and edit sentences/stories.
  - b. Collect and review student's work then put sentences with errors on the board and correct the mistakes together
  - c. Highlight or circle errors but don't make the correction, give the papers back to students to correct
  - d. Have students read their stories to each other or to you work together to revise sentences and vocabulary to help with meaning and fluency.

My name is Ana Smith. I live in New York City. I like to look out the window of my apartment. Right now I am sitting in the window and looking out. A young man is walking next to his wife and son. They are talking to their son. There is an old man sitting on a bench in the park across the street. He is eating his lunch and feeding the pigeons. The weather is cold. The wind is blowing and the leaves are falling. Across the street there is a man selling hotdogs. Two girls are walking home from school. They are wearing coats, and carrying their backpacks. I like to look out the window. I see new things every day.

**Partner A:** Read the story to your partner. Your partner will write the missing words.

My name is Ana Smith. I live in New York City. I like to look out the window of my apartment. Right now I am sitting in the window and looking out. A young man is walking next to his wife and son. They are talking to their son. There is an old man sitting on a bench in the park across the street. He is eating his lunch and feeding the pigeons. The weather is cold. The wind is blowing and the leaves are falling. Across the street there is a man selling hotdogs. Two girls are walking home from school. They are wearing coats, and carrying their backpacks. I like to look out the window. I see new things every day.

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**Partner B:** Listen to your partner read. Write the missing words.

My name is Ana Smith. I \_\_\_\_\_ in New York City. I \_\_\_\_\_  
look out the window of my apartment. Right now I \_\_\_\_\_ in  
the window and \_\_\_\_\_ out. A young man \_\_\_\_\_ next  
to his wife and son. They \_\_\_\_\_ to their son. There  
\_\_\_\_\_ an old man \_\_\_\_\_ on a bench in the park across the street.  
He \_\_\_\_\_ his lunch and \_\_\_\_\_ the pigeons. The weather  
\_\_\_\_\_ cold. The wind \_\_\_\_\_ and the leaves \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Across the street there \_\_\_\_\_ a man \_\_\_\_\_  
hotdogs. Two girls \_\_\_\_\_ home from school. They \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ coats, and \_\_\_\_\_ their backpacks. I \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ look out the window. I \_\_\_\_\_ new things every day.

## Looking Out the Window



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