



THE STATE FAIR A Descriptive Event

NOTE: This lesson can address the following Common Core State Standards: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.3.D and W.5.3.D.

This is a fun prompt to do around the time of the state or local fair. You can use this same lesson to describe any amusement part, local carnival or even a big family reunion.

Now to for the lesson!

1. Tell the story line: "You are going to describe the state fair by writing about the things that you see, hear, smell, taste and feel there."

Younger or Struggling Writers:

2. Explain that they are going to describe the fair by writing simple sentences such as:
I see _____. I hear _____. I smell _____. I taste _____. I feel _____.
3. Next, write these starter sentences on the board for them. When it's time to write, they write the sample sentence and then fill in the blanks with phonetic spelling.

NOTE: Phonetic spelling means writing the *sounds* that they hear in the word. Correct spelling is NOT important in phonetic spelling. What's important is that they are writing letters that represent the sounds that they hear. For example, *I smell kotin cande* equals "I smell cotton candy."

Older or Advanced Writers:

4. Explain to the students that they are going to describe the fair by writing what they see, hear, smell, taste and feel, *without* using those five words. They also won't use the word "I."
5. Write the five senses on the board and brainstorm ideas for each sense

See	Hear	Smell	Taste	Feel
Crowds of people	Music	Fried Food	Cotton Candy	People pushing
Rides	Screams	Barn Animals	Ice Cream	Hot weather

6. Give a sample sentence for each sense.

Crowds of people move through the pathways.	Music plays loudly from each ride.	The aroma of fried food fills the air.	Cotton candy is sweet on my tongue.	People push to be first in line.
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7. Show the 5 Sections:

See
Hear
Smell
Taste
Hear

Remember: K-1st Graders are encouraged to write 1 sentence for each section,
2nd Graders 2 sentences, 3rd Graders 3 sentences and so on.

Now to write!

Guide the students through the following steps. They are free to use their own words as long as they follow the steps to keep their story organized. There are samples in italics for your own guidance.

8. Start off with an introductory statement that describes the fair in one word:
The fair is such a blast!
9. Write about things that people see.
The Ferris wheel moves around and around. People crowd the walkways.
10. Write about things that people hear.
Bumper cars crash into each other. People scream and laugh.
11. Write about things that people smell.
The stench of barnyard animals fill the air. The smell of grease and fried foods makes me hungry.
12. Write about things that people taste.
Sweet cotton candy melts on my tongue. Crispy elephant ears crunch between my teeth.
13. Write about things that people feel.
My stomach jumps to my throat going down the roller coaster. My head starts to spin on the merry-go-round.
14. Write a concluding sentence about the fair. Include thoughts for the future.
I had so much fun at the fair this year. I can't wait to go again next year!