February is a great time for appreciating the past, reflecting on the present, and working toward the future. Use writing to help students realize these goals.

**Word Bank Words**
- shadow
- weather
- weather
- weather
- Washington
- card
- Lincoln
- valentine
- president
- candy
- groundhog

**Writing Activities**

1. Have students imagine what life would be like if they could be superheroes. Instruct them to write about what special powers they would have and how they would help others. Let students draw themselves wearing special costumes and write descriptions of how they might look.

2. Challenge students to imagine, design, and write about their own web site. Have students consider what information and graphics they would like to include, and what other web sites they would want to link to their personal site.

3. Show students how sweet descriptive writing can be! Provide candy labels for students to read. Point out the descriptive words often used to talk about the taste and texture of candy. Give each student a piece of candy to enjoy as they write descriptions about its flavor and texture.

4. Motivate students to write creative and interesting sentences for their spelling words using this idea. Collect the sentences students write for a spelling list and choose the most original ones to read aloud during the weekly spelling test. Award extra points to the students who have sentences chosen.

5. Give students a voice in their own education. Have students choose a seasonal poem to read together as a class. Vary the activity by having some lines read by one or several students, or by alternating groups of students. Have the class select important passages and let different students read the lines aloud, emphasizing different words and phrases each time. Discuss the way pace, tone, and volume affect the line readings.

6. Teach students how to “shape” a personal narrative with this great exercise. Have each student cut out a simple six-sided cube pattern. Number the sections 1-6. In the first section, have students write the introduction to a personal narrative. In sections two, three, and four, have them write events from the story. In section five, write the climax to the story. In the last section, write the story ending. Let students fold the pattern to form a cube and secure the sides with tape. To read the story, start in section one and read each side in order.

7. Help peer editors stay focused and provide writers with useful information using this technique. When reviewing a classmate’s work, have the editor fold a piece of paper into three columns labeled Strengths, Suggestions, and Questions. Have editors write at least one thing in each column, then pass the sheet back to the writer with the draft.

8. Use this activity to combine character analysis and letter writing practice. Allow students to choose a character from a favorite story and write a letter to the character. Have students write questions about the character’s actions and behavior, and give the character advice.

9. Teach students how to make a personal web page of their own. Challenge students to imagine, design, and write about their own web site. Have students consider what information and graphics they would like to include, and what other web sites they would want to link to their personal site.

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