

Esmeralda
Period 1**Outdoor Science Camp**Express and Reflect:

I love camping. The day I started loving camping was in sixth grade when we went to outdoor science camp. I think camping could be fun and really cool. The main reason I love camping is because it leaves so many memories. The memories you get from going camping are out of the ordinary. One thing I remember about camp was finding an animal. I saw a bear behind a tee-pee. It was kind of scary, but at the same time it was fascinating. Memories of outdoor science camp are awesome.

Inform and Explain:

Before you go camping you need to know one thing: make sure you take the right items. I took the following: Chap Stick, clothes, a towel, and a brush. The most important thing from here is Chap Stick. If you go camping and it's cold and you don't take Chap Stick, your lips will crack and turn purple. I think that's nasty. I took Chap Stick, but on one hike I forgot to take it and my lips hurt a lot. I couldn't take it. They hurt so much. Chap Stick is really important. Even if I'm not camping I still need Chap Stick because my lips get chapped. So always have your Chap Stick with you.

Evaluate and Judge:

The best day at camp was on a Thursday. I didn't think Thursday was going to be fun, but it was. Thursday morning I woke up to a typical morning shower. I took about 3 minutes; the water was warm at least. After we finished taking our showers, we got ready to sing camp songs and practice our skit for the last time. Before we did that we ate lunch. We had pasta with chicken. I remember eating that. I thought it was the best food there they ever had. Once we finished eating we went to the stage to perform our skit. I was nervous, but I tried my very best. It was pretty funny. I only remember parts of the skit, like when I had to throw acorns in the sky to act as a cave exploding. Over all, it was my very favorite day.

Inquire and Explore:

I wonder how the camp has changed since I've been there. I could just imagine the camps being bigger, and cooler than it was before. I thought it was really cool when I went there, but if it's improved then it will be even cooler. Maybe the trees will be taller. What if there are new camp sites? Having the same camps as every year could get kind of boring, but if there are different places then it would be awesome. The camp is not the only thing that's different; the counselors/guides have probably changed. Probably the only thing that will not change is the food being so good. The camp's food is better than school food.

Analyze and Interpret:

Of course going to the mountains means one thing . . . it's going to be cold. Why is it so much colder in the mountains? It has something to do with the altitude, but you would think the closer you got to the sun the warmer it would get. I remember the first day; we had to wear two sweaters because it was cold, especially when we got out of the showers. Every morning we woke up to a shower, and once we finished we got ready to go outside. I was afraid of getting sick; however, it was a good thing I took a couple sweaters. Some times it was colder than other times, but it was worth the fun times we had. Why is it so much colder in the mountains?

Take a Stand/Propose a Solution:

How much does going to camp usually cost?—About 90 to 100 dollars. That's a lot of money don't you think? When I went camping, it was free. It's not always free but when we went camping it was. I guess we just got lucky. Even though camp is so expensive I say it's worth it, because you will never get to experience it again. Even though it's worth the price we pay, I still think we should go free. A lot of parents can not afford to go, and it is not fair to the kids. There are a lot of kids that have to stay behind because of not being able to go to Outdoor Science Camp. A couple of my friends couldn't go because they couldn't afford it. They missed out on a very good time. You learn a lot when you go. Camp should be free! The school should pay for it so everyone has an opportunity to go.

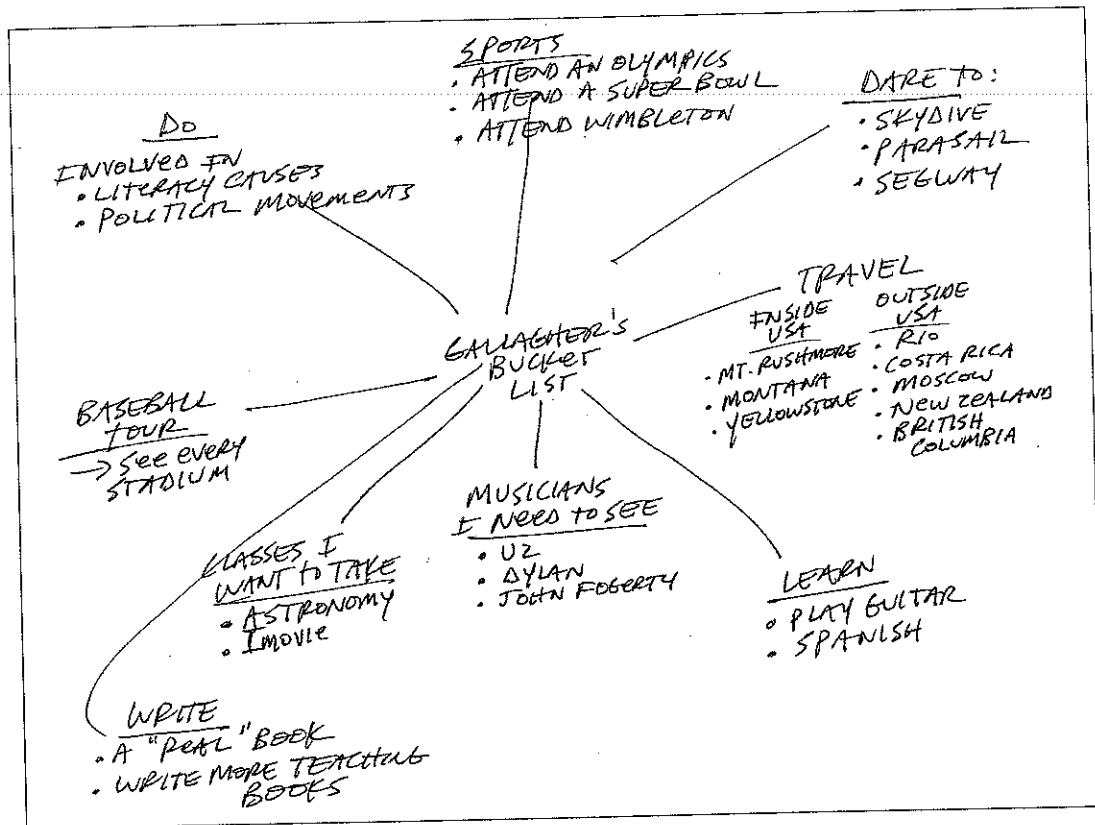
Figure 1.6 Esmeralda's Quick Writes for Different Writing Purposes

The Bucket List

Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman starred in *The Bucket List*, a movie about two men who compose bucket lists—things they want to do before kicking the bucket—and then who set off to fulfill their goals. Not the best film ever, but the genesis for a good writing idea for the classroom.

Begin by creating your bucket list in front of your students (see Figure 2.7 for my list).

Once students have composed their lists, have them choose a “hot spot”—an idea that excites them. Before they write, choose one of your own and begin drafting in front of your students, emphasizing why this particular item on your bucket list is meaningful to you. Students then follow your lead by drafting essays of their own.



The Neighborhood Spot



Begin with a brief brainstorm of the “spots” in your neighborhood that you will always remember. Here are some of mine:

- The fort I built with Mitch Zusman when I was eight
- The local 7-11, where countless Slurpees, Lemonheads, and comic books were consumed

- Bob’s Big Boy restaurant—where we hung out in high school after Friday night games
- Lifeguard tower number 4 at Huntington Beach
- Kaneohe Lane, the street that saw countless numbers of neighborhood football games
- My “dunkball” basketball court in the driveway of my home
- Bob Dohmeyer’s backyard pool, where we jumped off the roof when his parents were not home

From their lists, have students select one spot in their neighborhood that they will always remember. Before writing, have them make a T-chart of what they remember about the spot. On the left side, have them recall details, memories, and dialogue; on the other side of the chart, have them consider why that spot holds a special place in their memory. This will spur both expression and reflection when they write.

An alternative: when brainstorming their favorite childhood spots, have students select one or two spots and have them draw them.