

A Colorized Memory—writing about a memory with a twist…

Ideas taken from Reviving The Essay, by Gretchen Bernabei

The idea of fictionalizing a memory to create something that might seem mundane come alive, is something students need permission to do. I often tell my students that writing is that place where they can tell a little fib (or even a big fib) to tell the story they way they might have wanted it to happen, or the way they imagined it to happen!

Gretchen Bernabei, in her text Reviving The Essay, refers to this strategy as colorizing a memory, and she uses this flow chart to assist students in fictionalizing their memory:

Another way to get students to fictionalize their writing is to use the above text structure boxes as they relate to art. For instance, provide students with a picture of a place, and have them create the rest of the text structure boxes based on this imaginary place. Or provide students with a moment and ask them to work backwards to determine the place and then other fictionalized moments. Permit students to collaborate to create meaningful text structure boxes.

**Task:** Choose a memory of a place. First, list details you remember about the place. Then, fictionalize these details and add things about this place that did not really exist, but could exist should you let your imagination go there. Zoom in on small moments about this place and list them. Fictionalize some moments that might have happened or could have happened. Choose these events to complete the text structure boxes. Use the text structure as your guide for writing a colorful memory!