HELP ME WRITE BETTER

STUDIO™ / WRITING RESOURCES

PRINT • CUT • USE

THE WRITER'S DECISION CARDS

Twelve prompts to help writers pause, choose and keep moving in their own words.

PAUSE. ASK. CHOOSE. WRITE.

MADE FOR

Writers • Teachers • Writing Partners

Practical pages you can use, adapt and revisit. Build the writer through modelling, meaningful choices and independent practice.

Developed by the Help Me Write Better Studio™ team.
Created and developed in Barbados. Built for writers everywhere.

CARDS 01–04 / PRINT, CUT AND USE

Start with purpose

Print on A4, follow the cut guides and use one card at a time during writing or conferencing.

CARD 01

PURPOSE

What am I really trying to say?

Write your central idea in one sentence. Underline the part that needs explaining.

YOUR WORDS. YOUR CHOICE.

CARD 02

AUDIENCE

Who needs to understand this?

Name your reader. What might they not know yet?

YOUR WORDS. YOUR CHOICE.

CARD 03

CLARITY

Which word needs explaining?

Circle a vague word. Replace it with something more precise.

YOUR WORDS. YOUR CHOICE.

CARD 04

SEQUENCE

What should come next?

Choose one next step: example, explanation, contrast or conclusion.

YOUR WORDS. YOUR CHOICE.

CUT ON THE DOTTED GUIDES

CARDS 05–08 / PRINT, CUT AND USE

Develop the thinking

Print on A4, follow the cut guides and use one card at a time during writing or conferencing.

CARD 05

EVIDENCE

What can I show?

Choose an observation, experience, example or trustworthy source.

YOUR WORDS. YOUR CHOICE.

CARD 06

EXPLANATION

Why does my example matter?

Write one sentence linking the evidence back to your idea.

YOUR WORDS. YOUR CHOICE.

CARD 07

RELEVANCE

Which detail belongs?

Keep the detail that serves your purpose. Set the other aside.

YOUR WORDS. YOUR CHOICE.

CARD 08

CONNECTION

How do my ideas fit together?

Explain the link between this sentence and the previous one.

YOUR WORDS. YOUR CHOICE.

CUT ON THE DOTTED GUIDES

CARDS 09–12 / PRINT, CUT AND USE

Revise and grow

Print on A4, follow the cut guides and use one card at a time during writing or conferencing.

CARD 09

VOICE

Does this sound like me?

Read it aloud. Rewrite one line in words you would choose.

YOUR WORDS. YOUR CHOICE.

CARD 10

REVISION

What should I change first?

Move, add or remove one idea before correcting spelling.

YOUR WORDS. YOUR CHOICE.

CARD 11

EDITING

What might distract my reader?

Check punctuation, word choice and sentences after revising meaning.

YOUR WORDS. YOUR CHOICE.

CARD 12

INDEPENDENCE

What can I do without help now?

Name one writing move you can make independently next time.

YOUR WORDS. YOUR CHOICE.

CUT ON THE DOTTED GUIDES

A FIVE-MINUTE ROUTINE

One card. One decision. One change.

Use the questions during conferencing, peer review or independent revision.

01

READ

Ask the writer to read the current sentence, paragraph or plan.

02

CHOOSE

Offer one relevant card. The writer answers aloud or in writing.

03

ACT

The writer makes one purposeful change independently.

04

REFLECT

Ask: What did you choose, and why?

MY NEXT MOVE

The card I used was # _____. I decided to _____.

Next time, I can _____.