

Weekly Widgets



To keep the creative juices flowing, you'll pick a new "widget" from the following list to submit each Friday. Should be fun. Enjoy.

✓ **Capture the Caption**

Submit a humorous caption for 3 of the photos provided, or find your own photos [HERE](#) or anywhere.

✓ **Idiot Letters**

Write & send a letter to a corporation in which you appear idiotic in your requests or questions. Wait to receive their politically correct, public relations reply. [See Paul Rosa's sample letters](#) as a model. (Click the "Look Inside" function near the book cover & scroll to find sample letters.)

✓ **Hook & Ladder Stories**

Take a FAMOUS FIRST LINE from literature and put it at the top of your page. Then take a FAMOUS LAST LINE & fill in the stuff in the middle (about a page worth). It's like a couple of slices of world-famous bread with your very own homemade "miracle whip" on the insides. ([HERE'S ONE POSSIBLE LINK](#))

✓ **Tabloids Tell the Tale**

Take any two (2) tabloid headlines and combine them to create a story idea. Then write the short story. (About a page or so)

✓ **Dynamic Dialogue**

Stake out a public place where conversations occur (airport, park, bus, bleachers at a ball game) and listen! Record the conversation of 2 people or a group (use a tape recorder first if necessary, and then transcribe it).

✓ **Name the Band**

Rock bands always have interesting names (Smashing Pumpkins, They Might Be Giants, Crash Test Dummies, U-2, REM, Spinal Tap). Typically, there's a story behind each name. Make up a band & band name, tell the story, and explain how the name reflects the relevance of the musical genre or style, lyrics, audience appeal or band members' behavior/beliefs.

Over →



↙ **Misheard Lyrics (“Mondegreens”)**

Ever belt out a song in front of your friends only to discover you had the lyrics wrong?! Make up an original example of your own misheard lyrics like [THESE](#) or [THESE](#).

↙ **Presidents’ Anagram**

Take any famous person’s name & rearrange it to create a new and funny sentence like these [President anagrams](#). Or just do another like [THESE](#).

↙ **Computer Haiku**

Take a typical computer error message & write it in haiku (if we haven’t done poetry yet, look it up). Model it after [THESE](#) or pick any other “technical” message & turn it into a haiku (package label, recipe, student handbook, etc.)

↙ **Fun with Phone Answering Machines**

Have a quirky mother or grandmother who might worry about you too much? Give us the best message you can imagine receiving on your answering machine from that loved one who’s caring is way over the top. Listen to [Amy’s Answering Machine](#) for ideas OR do a [Parents’ Texts Gone Wrong](#) version.

↙ **You Can Tell Everybody This is Your Song**

Enter a songwriting contest (like [Musical Theater Songwriting Challenge](#)) or write your own song & perform it for our class.

↙ **Personifying the Abstract**

Take an abstract quality or emotion & give it life (in a paragraph or so). Tell us what kind of ice cream Hate would eat. Where does Doubt live? How long does it take Anger to answer the door? How does Worry wake up in the morning? [READ THESE](#) as models. (And why not add a little pen or pencil drawing?!)

