



## Walk the Walk! Before and After: A Narrative Writing Project

Writing can help students prepare for their museum outing, focus during their visit, and reflect on it afterward. Drawing on their experience gives them plenty of material and breathes life into their writing. [Find help connecting these projects to the Common Core State Standards here.](#)

Here are two suggestions for projects:

### **Picture Me at the Museum**

For younger students/emerging writers

1. Divide your page in half (in a landscape orientation). Write the word "Before" at the top of the left side, and write the word "After" at the top of the right side.
2. Before your museum visit, think of something you know or imagine you will see or do there. Draw a picture of it in the "Before" section of your paper. Write or dictate a few sentences about your drawing, including when and where you're going, what's happening in the picture, and how you feel about it.
3. During your museum visit, think about what you drew and what you wrote.
4. After your visit, remember something you did or saw at the Museum. Draw a picture of it in the "After" section of your paper. Write or dictate some details about it just like before.
5. Share your drawings and writing with others.

### **Something to Write Home About**

For older students/intermediate writers

1. Choose a real or imaginary audience for a letter you'll write about your museum visit: a friend, a relative, or even a journal. You will write your letter in two parts - one before the outing, and one after.
2. Before your museum visit, think about what you know or imagine you will do there. Begin your letter and describe what you're anticipating - where you're going, what will be happening and when, preparations you're making, how you feel about the trip, and so on.
3. During your museum visit, take note of things you'll want to write about.
4. After your visit, write about your experience. Use as many sensory details as you can - what you saw, heard, felt, smelled, and maybe even tasted. Describe how you felt about the trip. You might also include a quotation from a classmate or your tour guide. Be sure to write a conclusion that sums it all up.
5. Share your letter with others.