



Old Sturbridge Village Writing Prompts

After exploring the Village's 3D tours, students will draw inspiration from the Village's surroundings to flex their creative writing muscles.

1. Write a story from the perspective of a child living in a small town in the 1830s.
2. You are a kid from the 1830s. One morning, you wake up and it is 2020! What do you do?
3. Choose one of the buildings from the 3D tour. How would you describe the building to someone who had never seen it before? Make sure to use as many details and descriptive words as you can!
4. Choose an object that you see in the Village and write about what memories it brings to you. Does it remind you of any smells? Feelings? Sounds? Specific moments or people? Start your writing with "I remember... ."
5. At OSV, we cook many recipes from cookbooks written during the time. Sometimes, these recipes can be hard to understand because the measurements and ingredients are different. Describe your favorite food to someone who has never eaten it before. How do you make it? What is in it?
6. Old Sturbridge Village depicts an important time in American history where things were changing quickly. We know about the 1830s because people wrote letters and journal entries about their everyday lives. What would you write about 2020 so that people in the future will know more about this time?

7. Look at this portrait from OSV's collections. It was painted around 1840, but we don't know much about the boy in the portrait. What do you think he was like, based on this painting?



8. Imagine that you are about to have your portrait painted by a 19th-century portrait artist. People often had artists include details that told viewers something about their lives and what was important to them. What would you have included in your portrait? What would be in the background? Would you have other people in it with you?

9. All of the artifacts in the museum once belonged to someone just like you. They help us tell stories. Imagine that one of your favorite objects is in a museum someday. What story would the object tell? Write about it!

10. A list poem is a poem written by compiling short thoughts and observations about art or an object. Explore the Village using the 3D tour. Find an interesting object in the Village and write down all of the words and phrases that come to mind. When you are done making your list, arrange your words into a poem. It can rhyme, but it doesn't have to.
11. During the 1830s, many people started moving out West in search of more land. Pretend that you have started the long journey to Ohio and write a letter to a friend or family member about your travels.
12. The 1830s was an important time for social issues like women's rights and abolitionism (the policy of ending slavery). Imagine that you are an abolitionist or someone in favor of women's rights and write a short speech about your cause.