

Water & Memory

Length	50 mins
Materials Needed	Video interview with Nora Naranjo Morse (see Writing Water website for YouTube link) Video clips of running water (2 links below)
Lesson Focus	Learn about the ties between water and memory
Learning Goals – Writing	Descriptive writing and memoir style storytelling
Learning Goals - Water	Thinking about our memories in a different context and realizing how pervasive water is to the human experience.
Target Audience	All ages
Warm-Up Writing (5 mins)	While instructor plays water video clip, have the writers start to describe water in their environments. Invite them to think about the different phases of water – gas, liquid, and solid – and where water can be found naturally and artificially. How does it look, feel, sound? Try to use colorful language to describe what you can imagine. https://www.youtube.com/shorts/38HpWrijaH4 https://www.youtube.com/shorts/sn8O5xx31Ro
Writing Prompt #1 (25 mins)	Watch video of an interview with Nora Naranjo Morse, Native American Artist and Poet (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRmge17k1Jk) (4 mins). As you watch, make note of what Naranjo Morse shares about each of the five senses. As you watch, what do you envision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● seeing? ● hearing? ● tasting? ● touching? ● smelling?

	<p>Naranjo Morse describes how water connects Native American people to past stories. When shared, news stories become a part of our collective memory as a society. Rewrite the scene of the Native American people being baptized from the point of view of a journalist, an outsider who is observing this take place. By taking on the role of a journalist, you are helping to preserve this cultural memory of water.</p> <p>Task: Write a descriptive news story. Address the following details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Who is involved in this story?● What is happening?● Where is it taking place?● When is it happening?● Why is it happening?● How is this happening? <p>Incorporate as many details as possible about the five senses from your notes above.</p> <p>Finally, write a headline for your descriptive news story.</p> <p>If time, share your news story with a partner. Which details did you both include? Which details did one writer include which the other writer did not? Why did you each make the choices you did? What does this story about water help you remember?</p>
<p>Writing Prompt #2 (20 mins)</p>	<p>Have writers think about a strong memory that centers around or includes water (lake, river, rain, pool, bathtub, etc.). Have them close their eyes and picture the scene vividly (5 min). Then, have them write their memory in memoir format. Include some tips for how to do this, for example: https://www.masterclass.com/articles/6-tips-for-writing-a-memoir ir.</p>

Wrap-Up	For more inspiration, send writers home with these prompts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● What is your earliest memory of water, and what was notable about it?● How does water impact your daily life? Do you think about it actively or is it a passive interaction? Why?● Picture what water memories plants or animals could have and write about it.
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This lesson plan is free to download and use. The Writing Water Curriculum Project (WWCP) was developed in 2021-2022 with support from The Colorado Water Center at Colorado State University and in collaboration with interns at the Community Literacy Center. Special thanks to Emily Iskin, our graduate research assistant and expert in fluvial geomorphology, who provided essential consultation in water science and created original water-inspired art for the WWCP webpage.