

Great Type Ones and Twos to Wrap Up the Year

Regardless of grade or subject area, it's a great idea to close the year with reflection and summary activities that encourage students to look back at their growth and celebrate how far they've come. The following prompts help students focus their thinking as they reflect on their year, and they provide teachers with helpful insight on their classroom routines and instruction.

Remember to provide a line or item quota for prompts that aren't already quantified (usually about 4-6 lines) and keep response time short (usually about 2-5 minutes).

Type One

- What were the three hardest things we did this year and why?
- Identify two study techniques that worked for you this year and one that wasn't as effective.
- How well do you think your effort in this class matches your grade? Explain.
- What were your favorite things about this class?
- Describe two or more things you will always remember about this subject.
- Identify two things you are excellent at in writing (or another subject) and one thing you want to work on.
- What are two things you would do differently if you could take this class all over again?
- How did your expectations of this class align with the reality of the class?
- What two pieces of advice would you give someone coming into this class next year?
- Identify at least one challenge you overcame this year and explain how you overcame it.
- What strengths did you discover about yourself this year?
- What two or more things about going into grade _____ make you nervous?
- What two or more things about going into grade _____ excite you?
- Identify two things you are looking forward to doing in school next year.

Type Two

- Describe one thing from this class you think you could teach someone else.
- Identify two differences between your writing at the beginning of the year and the end. Provide an example of each.
- Describe two things you now know about (course title or subject area) that you didn't know at the start of the year.
- Identify two writing (or other subject area) goals you should set for next year and provide example(s) to support why.
- Identify four major topics in this course/class/subject and rank them in order of importance. Number one is most important and number four is least important.
- Identify at least one common theme from this class and list specific topics we studied that relate to this theme.
- Make a list of as many vocabulary words as you can think of that we learned in this class this year.
- Sort the following vocabulary words from this class (or the words listed in the previous prompt) into categories and explain how you sorted them.
- Write an accurate description of this course for the program of studies in no more than 70 words. Use at least six subject area vocabulary words, three general academic terms, and include the major topics covered.

Teachers can reflect, too! While students are writing their reflections, take a few minutes of your own to respond to one or more of the following prompts. Save your response in a place you'll remember and reread your thoughts at the beginning of the next school year to help ground yourself and start off on the right foot.

Prompts for Teachers:

- What will I definitely do again next year? Why? What is the purpose?
- What do I need to fix or modify? Why?
- What was a total flop? Can I fix it? Is it worth it?
- When should I have looked for support? When could I have offered support?
- What were some of the best moments of this school year? How did you feel in these moments?
- Why did I do it? Should I do it again?
- How can I take care of myself better?
- What are some new strategies or activities I might want to try next year?
- What do I still love about teaching?
- What "notes to self" do I want to remember at the start of the next school year?
- What do I wish I had had more time for? Is it possible to make time next year? How?
- What was it all for?