



## WRITE BRAIN™ BOOKS WORLD

### "WOULD YOU RATHER...?"

"I would rather \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_."

### Activities to Promote Language Development and Reasoning

- Increase Engagement
- Build Confidence
- Develop the Four Domains
- Deepen Reasoning

Students Transition From **Speaking** and **Listening** to **Writing** and **Reading** Using WRITE BRAIN Illustrated Story Cards

For Use With ALL Grade Levels

Perfect for  
ELPAC,  
ACCESS, &  
ELPS test  
preparation!



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## A Note About English Language Development

- When students take the ELPAC, ACCESS, or other English Learner classification tests, they must be able to demonstrate proficiency in the four domains of reading, writing, listening and speaking. It's important to note that the writing domain is the last to develop and is what keeps students from being reclassified.
- Using WRiTE BRAiN Illustrated Story Cards in combination with this adapted game of "Would You Rather...?" increases students' engagement and confidence in listening and speaking by providing visual and language scaffolds. Students can leverage their familiarity with this activity and growth in the listening and speaking domains to increase their reading and writing proficiency.

### HOW TO PLAY

- Have students share in whole-group or turn-and-talk to generate a list of what they see in the image, building vocabulary. Encourage students to think beyond objects (nouns) and include descriptive language (adjectives).
- Group students and either select which level of question they will respond to, or empower them to select from the choices themselves. You may wish to group students strategically by EL level, or create mixed pairings to include a language model.
- Practice wait time with students to ensure they have time to think about their choices and reasoning. Wait time of 20-30 seconds is appropriate.
- Students turn to their partner to share and explain their choice. When students are ready to share, they should follow the framework below. Emphasize the importance of including their reasoning (because \_\_\_\_), not just their selected choice.

It is important that partners respond to the same question so that they have the opportunity to engage in extended conversation.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Have students create their own "Would You Rather...?"! Students can write their ideas on strips of paper and save them for next time!

### STUDENT FRAMEWORK

**Student A** reads the selected question to partner.

**Student B** responds: "I would rather \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_."

**THEN**

**Student B** re-reads the selected question to partner.

**Student A** responds: "I would rather \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_."

- After both students have had an opportunity to share their responses, bring students back together and randomly select students to share. Students should read the question they responded to, and then share their choice and reasoning, their partner's, or both.

This is an opportunity to boost active listening skills by starting a group discussion. Encourage students that may disagree with the choice or reasoning to engage and share why.

- To support the development of the reading and writing domains, you can ask students to write down their choice and reasoning. Students can exchange them with one another, reading what their partners or classmates wrote.

This moment of increased engagement is an opportunity to capture momentum and get students excited about writing.

PROJECT THE ACTIVITY BOXES ON FOLLOWING PAGES!

### BOOST THE IMPACT

We recommend you implement this program by having students respond to the questions both **VERBALLY** and in **WRITING**. We suggest having them work together in pairs at first, and then having two pairs pair up to create a group of four. In the group of four, pairs should summarize their partner's response which ensures that students are both actively speaking and listening.

There are 3 "levels" of questions, each with 2 prompts per story card.



### One star

is recommended for newcomers and EL levels 1-2, as they are the shortest with the simplest sentence structure and mostly Tier 1 vocabulary words. They have significant picture support and require minimal background knowledge.



### Two stars

is recommended for EL levels 3-4 *and* non-ELs that may not be ready for the more complex questions. They have a more complex sentence structure and some Tier 2 vocabulary words. There may be some background knowledge required (e.g., some concepts not in the picture).



### Three stars

is for non-ELs and those ELs that may have a higher listening/speaking domain score. These questions have complex sentence structures, Tier 2 and some Tier 3 vocabulary, and represent more abstract concepts with only some representation in the picture.

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1. Would you rather live in the past or the future? Why?
2. Would you rather time travel or slow down/speed up time? Why?



1. Would you rather *be* a robot or *control* a robot? Why?
2. Would you rather own a diner or a barbershop/hair salon? Why?



1. Would you rather be able to see 10 minutes into the future or 100 years into the future? Why?
2. Would you rather explain time travel to someone in the past or to someone in the future? Why?

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1. Would you rather travel somewhere near or somewhere far? Why?
2. Would you rather travel alone or with a friend? Why?



1. Would you rather watch a sunrise or a sunset? Why?
2. Would you rather live in the desert or in the forest? Why?



1. Would you rather build your home on a cliff, or in a valley? Why?
2. Would you rather follow an itinerary or explore on your own? Why?

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