



**Infinitive Phrases: Paragraph Activities****Infinitive Phrasetry: Narrative**

Phrasetry allows students to practice writing a particular phrase through poetry. In these short writing pieces, students will experiment with and explore the possibilities of the infinitive phrase. Three different forms are suggested below. For all of them, remember that infinitives are “to” + a verb. Do not confuse that with a prepositional phrase like “to the store.”

**Example One:** Use infinitive phrases to answer WHY about a verb. Have students imagine an activity like the crime scene investigation below. Think of four verbs that take place in that activity. Combine each verb with an infinitive phrase that explains WHY about the verb.

Knelt **to examine the bent branch along the wall**  
 Poured plaster **to fill the imprint left by the criminal**  
 Searched **to unearth footwear that matches the cast**  
 Exposed the culprit **to ensure that this crime would be his last**

*Sonia Remick*

**Another Possibility**

**Activity:** Building a sand castle

**Verbs:** filling the bucket,  
pouring the water, digging,  
patting

**Example Two:** Use infinitive phrases as adjectives to describe a noun. Have students imagine a scene like the wedding reception below. Think of four nouns that are in that scene. Combine each noun with an infinitive phrase that describes it.

A dress **to make them gawp**  
 A ring **to bind up dreams**  
 A cake **to smash in the face**  
 A glass **to toast everlasting happiness**  
 A limousine **to ride into the future**

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**Another Possibility**

**Scene:** first day of school

**Nouns:** outfit, parents, teacher,  
backpack

**Example Three:** Use infinitive phrases as nouns. Select a verb and complement combination to repeat in each line. Place a different infinitive phrase in front of that combination in each line.

**To rise above criticism** makes a better world.  
**To smile with all your teeth** makes a better world.  
**To break a bad habit** makes a better world.  
**To find something that was lost** makes a better world.  
**To have a soft spot for someone** makes a better world.  
**To write a poem** makes a better world.

*Sonia Remick*

**Other Possibilities**

**Verb + Complement:**  
was important  
takes hard work  
requires compassion  
is my goal  
fills me with joy