

Writing Activity: Hypothesizing About Why People Take Risks

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Directions: Write a hypothesis that explains why some people take risks. Support your hypothesis with observations from the selections or from your own experiences.

When **hypothesizing**, begin by gathering observations. In this case, you'll observe why people take risks. Then write a statement that gives a reasonable explanation of what you've observed. Finally, look for evidence that proves or disproves your hypothesis.

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Use the chart on the following screens to develop observations on which to base your hypothesis about risk-taking. An example has been provided.

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Risk Taker	Risk That Was Taken	Reason(s) for Taking Risk
Zena	Going Wilding without wearing her collar	Zena thought “collars were for little kids” (page 14).

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Risk Taker	Risk That Was Taken	Reason(s) for Taking Risk

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Risk Taker	Risk That Was Taken	Reason(s) for Taking Risk

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Character/Person	
Survival Skills	How Skills Helped

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Character/Person	
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Review your examples to see if they support your hypothesis. If your examples do not prove your hypothesis, revise it. If your examples do prove your hypothesis, choose the strongest examples to use in your essay.

Remember, a strong hypothesis

- begins with an intelligent guess or theory
- is based on observations and experiences
- organizes information clearly
- can be tested by observing and recording information