

Crafting an Awesome Title

Name: _____

Date: _____

Review the list of seven strategies for creating a title listed below. Then, read each short piece of writing. Next to each, write three different possible titles using the strategies as inspiration. When you have generated three titles, choose the one you like best and write it above the text.

1. Select from your draft a sentence or phrase that could serve as a title.
2. Write a title that is a question beginning with What, Who, When, Where, How or Why.
3. Write a title that is a question beginning with Is/Are, Do/Does, or Will.
4. Select from your writing some concrete image — something the reader can hear, see, taste, smell, or feel — to use as a title.
5. Write a title beginning with an -ing verb. (For example, "Creating a Good Title").
6. Write a title beginning with On and then add your topic (like "On the Titles of Essays").
7. Write a one-word title — the most obvious one possible.

Title: _____

A strong oak tree stood on the bank of a river. One day a fierce wind tore it up by the roots and cast it into the stream. As it was floating away it called out to the reeds, and asked them how it happened that they had not been blown down also.

"It is very strange," said the tree, "that I who am so large and strong, and who battled so hard with the wind, should be beaten and overcome, while you who are so weak and slender should escape."

"It is because you battled with the Wind that you were rooted up," answered the reeds. "We do not battle with him; we bow before him, and so he passes us by and never harms us."

Title Options:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

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Title: _____

Baby

So sweet and soft

Precious, vulnerable

Sleeping new sister, can I hold

You now?

Title Options:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Title: _____

Motown Records was founded by music producer Berry Gordy Jr. in 1959. After getting his start as a songwriter for singers in the Detroit area, he wanted to try his hand at producing. He began signing local artists to his new label, Tamla, which later became Motown Records. The songs released by his label showed a signature sound — big, bold orchestrations of jazz, blues, and R&B styles, reflecting the largely African-American culture of the Detroit area — that Gordy called “The Sound of Young America”. It wasn’t long before Motown began scoring hit after hit with songs like “Please Mr. Postman”, “Where Did Our Love Go,” “Ain’t Too Proud to Beg,” and many other songs that define the mid-to-late 1960s for many people.

Many of the artists Gordy signed to Motown went on to become legendary, like Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, Diana Ross and the Supremes, The Temptations, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, and the Jackson Five. From 1961 to 1971, Motown had 110 Top 10 hit songs, including classics like “My Girl,” “I Want You Back,” and “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough.” The songs that were recorded on the Motown label inspired countless musicians, and the artists that performed them paved the way for African-Americans in entertainment.

Title Options:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

