

Cultivating ELLs' Writing Fluency with Quick Writes

Article # 8: Visible Writing Series



The goal of this infographic is to share a quick, non-threatening writing technique to develop ELLs' writing fluency and critical thinking skills.

Research Suggests

Writing...

can be an effective tool for learning (Rivard, 1994),



develops conceptual understanding (Abell, 1992),

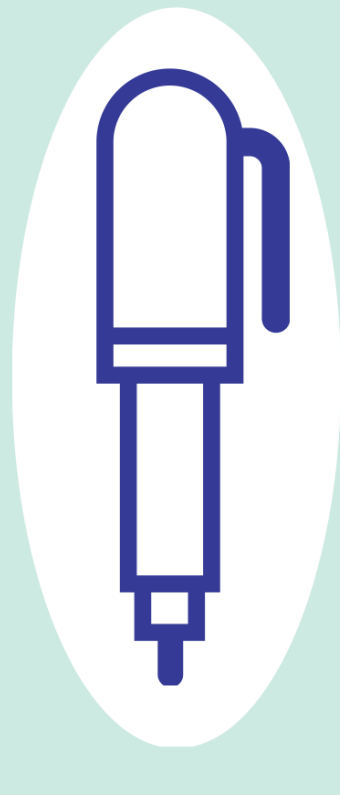
and requires paying attention to details, organizing information, and structuring arguments coherently (Kober, 1993).

Quick Writes

A QW is "brief written response to a question or probe" that requires students to quickly explain, comment, or reflect on an assigned topic.

(Green, Smith, & Brown, 2007; Nunan, 2003).

QWs can be used in content-specific classes to develop thinking and writing fluency. (Fisher & Frey, 2008)



When to use Quick Writes

Beginning

Use QWs to activate prior knowledge before exploring a topic (Cleland, Rillero & Zambo, 2003).

Middle

Use QWs to synthesize new information gathered during the class (Mason, Benedek-Wood, & Valasa, 2009).

End

Use QWs to reflect on concepts and experiences engaging in a process (Literacy & Learning, n.d.).

Quick Writes & Literacy

Reading

QW to synthesize events and ideas during and after reading.



Writing

QW to informally generate and organize ideas before writing formally.



Vocabulary

Use the new vocabulary in a QW and making sure to build context clues within the sentence.



Speaking

Before presenting ideas orally, to QW about the ideas they want to present.



Takeaways



1). QWs are opportunities for ELs to informally express their ideas in writing.

2). QWs develops communication skills, foster critical thinking, and serve as formative assessments.

3). Quick writing is a flexible structure that can be used in all disciplines.

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