

Quick Write

Description

A versatile strategy used to develop writing fluency, to build the habit of reflection into a learning experience, and to informally assess student thinking. The strategy asks learners to respond in 2–10 minutes to an open-ended question or prompt posed by the teacher before, during, or after reading.

Purpose

Use *before*, *during*, and *after* reading to:

- Activate prior knowledge by preparing students for reading, writing, or a discussion
- Help students make personal connections
- Promote reflection about key content concepts
- Encourage critical thinking
- Organize ideas for better comprehension
- Increase background knowledge when shared
- Synthesize learning and demonstrate understanding of key concepts
- Reinforce vocabulary
- Provide a purpose for reading
- Assess student knowledge on the topic prior to reading

Directions

1. Explain that a Quick Write helps engage students in thinking about a content topic before, during, and after reading. Stress that in a Quick Write, students respond to a question or prompt related to the text by writing down whatever comes to their minds without organizing it too much or worrying about grammar.

2. Select a topic related to the text being studied and define the purpose for the quick write:

Examples:

- Summarize what was learned
 - Connect to background information or students' lives
 - Explain content concepts or vocabulary
 - Make predictions, inferences, and hypotheses
 - Pose a question that addresses a key point in the reading selection
3. Tell the students how long they will have to do the writing, typically 2–10 minutes.
4. Use the Quick Write as part of instruction, assessment, discussion.

Note: Typically a Quick Write is graded only for completion, not for quality or accuracy.

Extensions

- Quick Writes can be assigned as part of students' Learning Logs or Journals.
- Quick Writes can be used to think/brainstorm for a Think-Pair-Share.
- Students can generate their own Quick Write questions and prompts.
- Students can share their responses in small groups and compare their answers
- Students can work in small groups to create a quick write, with each student offering one sentence in a round-robin fashion.