

Quick Write Directions

What is it?

Quick writes are most often used to develop fluency. In quick writes, students write rapidly and without stopping in response to literature and for other types of impromptu writing. Quick writes, provide students with a means of quickly representing **their thinking**. Rather than being concerned with correct spelling, punctuation, and word usage, the student is more interested in simply responding to the prompt in a personal way. Students reflect on what they know about a topic, ramble on paper, generate words and ideas, and make connections among the ideas. Young children often do quick writes in which they draw pictures and add labels. Some students do a mixture of writing and drawing. Students do quick writes for a variety of purposes:

- **Learning logs:**
Immediately following a particular lesson, engaging activity, or discussion, pause and allow students to reflect in their learning logs or journals. Share responses.
- **Constructed response to literature:**
 - to activate prior knowledge
 - to reflect on a theme of a story and how it relates to them personally
 - to describe a favorite character
- **Reflections on new learning:**
 - students write an explanation of what something means
 - to define or explain a word on the word wall

How to do a Quick Write

1. The teacher selects a purpose for the students. This prompt should be tied to a content area and elicit a personal response from the student.
2. After listening to the prompt, the student is instructed to write a response by jotting down whatever comes to mind. The time limit should be no longer than 5-10 minutes in length. When students are learning, I would start with 2 minutes of writing and increase the time gradually. Students write until instructed to stop. They are allowed to only finish their thought when “time” is called.
3. Quick Writes may be used several times in a day. They may provide a “nugget” for a more extended piece of writing.
4. When it is time to share, students read their writing to a small group of four or five students. Volunteers could also share with the whole group.

Lesson 2 Quick Write Question:

How can unexpected turns in life’s journey lead to new discoveries?

Appendix #1b