

Overview:

This strategy is used to encourage students to write their ideas. Students benefit from this free writing exercise by stretching their creative abilities, and by expressing themselves using the written form.

Strategy:

Students brainstorm possible topics for writing from a recent unit of study or from a recent reading. Then, each student will decide on a topic to use in his/her writing. Students will be given several minutes to list ideas to be included in their writing. Students will then be given a set amount of time to complete the free writing assignment. Students should be reminded to stay on topic, relate the writing to your life in some way, be creative, provide details, and express your feelings. Assignments can be handed in for teacher evaluation, volunteers may read theirs to the class, or students can pair-share to provide suggestions for editing. It is important to have students think and write on a regular basis.

You are ready to TeachItNow! Here's how you can use the "free writing" strategy. A learning target, instructional activity, and assessment technique are provided.

Learning Target:

Students will choose a topic from the list created by a brainstorming session and have create a graphic organizer with the topic of their writing in the center and details to be included extending from the center. Students will also write a draft 3 paragraph essay expressing their ideas on a chosen topic.

Activity:

Introduce free writing using a rubric. Discuss the expectations for the red, yellow, and green rubric chart (See Rubric Chart). Give the students the parameters for completing the free writing.

Red	Yellow	Green
The main idea and supporting details are not clear.	The paragraph has a main idea, but insufficient supporting details.	The paragraph has a main idea and supporting details.
The paragraph does not include the three components (introduction ,middle, conclusion)	All three components (introduction, middle, and conclusion) are not evident.	The paragraph includes the components introduction, middle, and conclusion.

Formative Assessment:

Once students complete their writing ask them to evaluate their own writing using the rubric. After the self review, students should write a paragraph describing what they did well in their writing and one improvement that should be made.