

FOCUSED FREE WRITE

PURPOSE:

Stimulate student thinking and ideas. During free write the student taps into his/her imagination and knowledge base. Focused free write encourages the student to express ideas clearly.

PROCEDURE:

- Every student writes about the selected topic for a specified period of time (between 1 and 4 minutes).
- The only rule is that students must write the entire time about the assigned topic.
- If a student runs out of thoughts, he should write the last sentence again until another idea comes.
- These can be collected and reviewed by the teacher to make instructional decisions, but if a grade is taken, it should only be credit for doing the task, not grading for correctness.
- The idea is to get feedback from the students about what they think they understand or even the questions they still have.

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FOCUSED-FREE WRITING:

- Should be done quietly and without interruptions,
- May be written in notebooks, journals, or learning logs,
- May allow the student time to summarize what he/she has written,
- May lead to a class discussion on general statements.

