Cultivating ELLs' Writing Fluency with Quick Writes

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 (Rovai, 1994), develops conceptual understanding (Adoo, 1992), and requires paying attention to details, organizing information, and structuring arguments coherently (Kober, 1993).

Quick Writes

A QWI is “brief written response to a question or prompt” that requires students to quickly explain, construct, or reflect on an assigned passage (Rosen, 2003).

QWIs can be used in content-specific classes to develop writing fluency (Pitzer & Frias, 2003).

When to use Quick Writes

Beginning

Use QWIs to activate prior knowledge before exploring a topic (Calland, Hiltro & Jambor, 2003).

Middle

Use QWIs to synthesize new information gathered during the class (Edmonson, Benedek-Wood, & Valko, 2009).

End

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

Quick Writes & Literacy

Reading

QWIs to synthesize events and ideas during and after reading.

Writing

QWI to informally generate and organize ideas before writing formally.

Vocabulary

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

Speaking

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

Takeaways

1. QWIs are opportunities for ELLs to expressively inform and develop their ideas.
2. QWIs develop 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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