

Timed Writing Activities

Time	Prompt/Task
2 Minutes	Describe your favorite television show. Include as many details as possible.
3 Minutes	Cake or Ice Cream: which one makes the best dessert? Support your opinion with facts & details!
3 Minutes	Polar Bear vs. Grizzly Bear: which animal would win in a fight over food? Support your opinion with facts & details.
4 Minutes	All the things I LOVE – quick write about all the things you love, things you just can’t live without.
4 Minutes	All the things that drive me CRAZY – quick write about all the things that drive you crazy. (E.g., Please do not write a list, your writing needs to be complete sentences.)
5 Minutes	<i>Read an informative article, short book, or chunk of a book to students prior to this quick write.</i> Draft a response-to-text piece about the reading. Remember to introduce the text, include personal reactions, actual details, and a conclusion.
7 Minutes	How-To * pick an activity, such as doing a cartwheel, making cookies, playing a video or board game, etc...and write a how-to piece to help others learn how to do it too. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make a quick list of the steps (planning). 2. Introduce your activity. Write down the steps from your planning list. Remember to write in complete sentences. Add a conclusion. The conclusion could be an extra, secret tip for success or a good luck wish to the reader. 3. If time, reread your how-to piece. Does it make sense? Would a reader be successful?
15 Minutes	Read & Respond – choose an informative text for students to read. Find a text that can be read in its entirety in 5-6 minutes. Then, give students a task/prompt and direct them to craft a response-to-text piece based on their reading. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the chosen text. Keep in mind that you only have 10 minutes to read & write a response. BOTH parts are equally as important. 2. Check the time. Do you need to reread any part of the text? Are you ready to write? 3. Do a quick planning (list, outline, graphic organizer, etc...). 4. Check the time. 5. Draft your response to text piece. *Write an introduction/lead. *Write the body. *Write a conclusion. 6. Check the time. 7. Reread & Revise. Does it make sense? Are there any places where you could improve the piece by revising or editing?