

Day 133

Take A Minute

Methods of Action & Expression



Today, try an exercise that will allow students to respond to a prompt in their own way and at their own level. After a lesson or mini-lecture, give them one minute to write an essay. Here are some sample prompts:

- › What is exercise?
- › Describe surrealism.
- › Why do hot things (hot air) rise above cold things (cold air)?
- › What are some of the effects of smoking on the body?
- › What are some of the differences between life today and life in the 1900s in our area?

You can also get creative with the one-minute paper. Try these unexpected options:

- › Hollywood is making a movie of Nat Turner's Rebellion/the life of Jonas Salk/*The House on Mango Street*. Cast the major characters and explain your choices.
- › List as many uses for a pencil/magnet/college degree as you can.
- › Create a soundtrack for gravity/a filibuster/CPR. Explain why you chose each song.
- › Design a metaphor for linear equations/Watergate/the skeletal system.
- › Share a few Twitter-style posts from Julio César Chávez/oxygen/an improper fraction.

Another good use of this strategy is to ask questions such as, "What was the main point of today's class?" or "What is one new word/term/idea you learned today?" These questions provide a general assessment of understanding and can serve as a tool for planning new learning experiences.