

★ Build Fluencies with Graduated Levels of Support for Practice & Performance



Day 248 **Take A Minute**

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 Revolution of Evelyn Serrano. Cast the major characters and explain your choices.*
- ★ *List as many uses for a pencil/magnet/college degree as you can.*
- ★ *Design a metaphor for linear equations/Watergate/the skeletal system.*
- ★ *Create a soundtrack for gravity/a filibuster/CPR. Explain why you chose each song.*
- ★ *Share a few Twitter-style posts from Shirley Chisholm/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.