



Quick-Write

A quick-write is a **literacy strategy** that can be used in any content area. In this activity you give students a topic or let them choose one of their own and then give them five minutes or so to write quickly about the topic.

Now don't go make extra work for yourselves by having students check grammar and spelling. Not that grammar and spelling aren't important, but the idea here is to help students work on getting ideas out of their heads and onto paper.

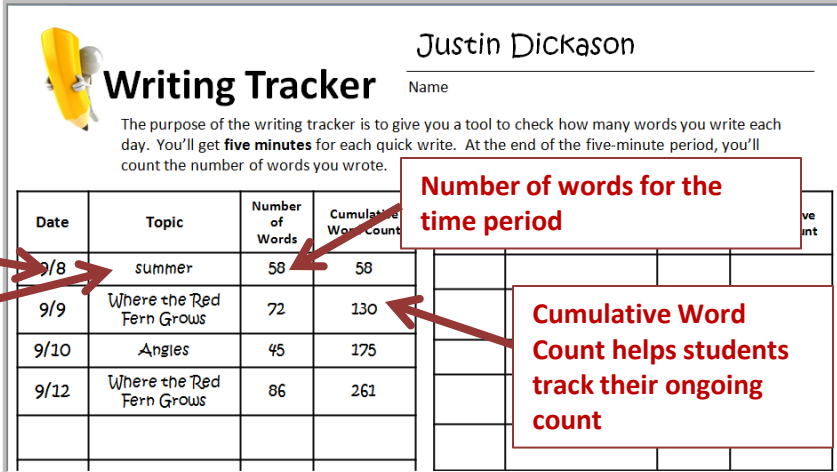
Each time you do this quick-write, have students count and record the number of words they have written. I've included a format you can use for doing this, but don't be shy about creating your own.

Month/Day →

Assigned topic →

Number of words for the time period

Cumulative Word Count helps students track their ongoing count



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Writing Tracker

The purpose of the writing tracker is to give you a tool to check how many words you write each day. You'll get **five minutes** for each quick write. At the end of the five-minute period, you'll count the number of words you wrote.

Date	Topic	Number of Words	Cumulative Word Count	Minutes
9/8	summer	58	58	
9/9	Where the Red Fern Grows	72	130	
9/10	Angles	45	175	
9/12	Where the Red Fern Grows	86	261	

Consider having students use this tracker form so students can watch how writing regularly helps them write more words in the same amount of time. This builds thinking fluency!

Have students think about their data.

1. Look at the number of words you wrote in your first entry. How many words were there?
2. Look at the number of words you wrote in your most recent entry? How many words are there?
3. What is the difference in the number of words between your first and most recent entry? (This is a simple subtraction. If the first entry is 58 and the most recent entry is 86, the difference is 28.)
4. Look at the number of words related to the topics you wrote. Did you write more for topics you had an interest in? Did you write more for topics you knew a lot about?
5. In the same amount of time (e.g., 5 minutes), do you feel that you are writing more quickly and getting the ideas out of your head more quickly?

