**March Writing Strategy**

**The “So What” Game**

**Purpose**:

* Help students write an effective conclusion.
* Guide students in making connections and elaborating on the significance of their writing.
* Use strategies for creating conclusions that summarize, synthesize, and have a lasting impact on your reader.

**Common Core Standards**:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.1e Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.2e Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).

CCSS.ELA.W.9-10.3e Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed or resolved over the course of the narrative.

**Directions:** Play the “So What? Why should anybody care?” Game.

If using this strategy to write a conclusion on a draft essay that the students themselves are writing, have the student identify the main idea or most important point of their essay. Ask them to write it in one sentence. If using this strategy to help students write a conclusion or summary for something they have read or learned, do the same, and ask them to identify the main point, or most important point.

Ask students to find a partner to work with in playing the “So What?” game.

One student should begin by reading their main point/main idea sentence to their partner. The partner should then ask “So what?” and “Why should anybody care?” The author should then ponder those questions and answer them in writing.

**Examples:**

1) A student has just written an essay on the Amendment they believe is most important in The Bill of Rights…

**Student**: *Basically, I’m just saying that the 2nd Amendment, the right to keep guns, is the most important of all our rights.*

**Partner**: *So what?*

**Student**: *Well, it is important because our Founding Fathers wanted to make sure that the people could defend themselves against a tyrannical government, even if it meant overthrowing our own government!!*

**Partner**: *Why should anybody care?*

**Student**: *That’s important because it shows that it is the people that have the power in this nation. If President Obama, or our government, tried stomping all over our rights and abusing us, we could fight against our government and create a new one. That is the whole idea behind a democracy.*

2) A student may have just learned the order of operations in a math class, and the teacher asks the students to summarize what they just learned in writing…

**Student**: *PEMDAS is an easy acronym to remember the order of operations for math.*

**Partner**: *So what?*

**Student**: *Well, it helps me to remember to first do Parenthesis, Exponents, Multiplication, Division, Addition, and then Subtraction!*

**Partner**: *Why should anybody care?*

**Student**:*It* *is important because if you don’t follow the correct order, the answer will be incorrect! And it will just be frustrating too!!*

For more information go to: ***writing\_center@unc.edu***