**Free Writing Strategy #2 - October**

**Word Bank Writing**

**Common Core Standards:**

*CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.3*

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

**Purpose:**

* To provide visual cues and a reference for students during writing.
* To reinforce subject-specific terminology with a focus on internalizing key concepts through writing.
* To assess student understanding and mastery of vocabulary and/or concepts.
* To enable students to engage in higher level thinking as they write in their own words.

**Directions:**

Word Bank Writing can be used as a formative assessment at any time during instruction, as a bell-ringer activity, or as a ticket-out-the-door.

1. Have the class participate in creating a word wall of concepts and vocabulary relevant to the unit that has been taught.
2. Ask students to a narrow the class list down to the most important concepts, or you may ask the students to choose their own personal set of words. If you wish, you may choose the words for the class.
3. Instruct the students to write for a specific purpose and audience, incorporating the chosen words. You may use a real-life writing cue, or a fictional cue (a memo, a news article, a story). See below for examples.
4. You may ask students to share their writing or display on a bulletin board so that students get the sense of authorship.

**Examples:**

**Math:**

Have students create a Word Bank/Word Wall of different transformations (dilation, reflection, etc.).

Have the students make a chart with the word and definition, and then a personal comparison. For example:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Transformation* | *Personal Comparison* |
| Dilation: Changes the size of an image | My eyes dilate when the light changes |

**Examples (continued):**

**Science:**

Have students brainstorm and create a Word Bank/Word Wall for different kinds of rocks.

Ask students to write a brief “field guide” for identifying the chosen rocks.

**CTE:**

Create a Word Bank/Word Wall of safety procedures to be followed in the shop (wear safety glasses, store chemicals in original containers, etc.).

Ask students to write a newspaper article of an outrageous fictitious accident that occurred.

**Art:**

Create a Word Bank/Word Wall of different art media (clay, canvas, wood, etc.).

Ask students to write a description of a lavish hotel room for an on-line vacation rental site.

**PE:**

Create a Word Bank/Word Wall of fitness terms (heart-rate, pulse, etc.). Ask students to write a how-to set of directions on a wallet card.

**Social Studies:**

Create a Word Bank/Word Wall of famous rulers (King Louis, Peter The Great, etc.).

Ask the students to write an FBI Most Wanted crime blotter for the chosen characters.

**English:**

Create a Word Bank/Word Wall of antagonists in stories read (Abigail from The Crucible, Bob Ewell from To Kill a Mockingbird, etc).

Have students create their own short stories incorporating chosen characters in a new setting.