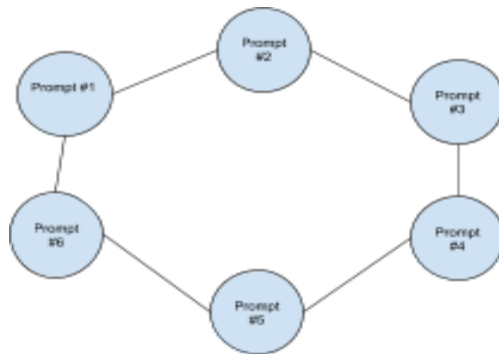


Writing Strategy: Writing Marathon (Promoting Writing Volume)

Description: The hardest part of the writing process for students is drafting. One way to create an engaging and fruitful writing period is by having a writing marathon. Like a marathon, a writing marathon is an activity that promotes endurance in writing. It requires that students fill the pages of their notebooks with writing about a topic in a fun and competitive way. Students are arranged in teams and are asked to compete against other teams to fill up their notebooks with the most writing. Students could move around the room to each writing prompt, but if classroom management is a concern, the prompts can be rotated around the room too. At the end of all the rounds, the winning team could win a prize, points, certificates or a chance to choose writing music for the next writing lesson.

How to have a writing marathon

1. Plan the prompts that students will be responding to in their notebooks (images, quotes, questions or scenarios). The prompts should get the students thinking/exploring their writing topic critically.
2. Teach students the ground rules during the mini lesson
 - a. What is the purpose for a writing marathon
 - b. How the classroom is organized



- c. Appropriate behavior for a marathon
 - i. No running
 - ii. No screaming during transitions
 - iii. Leave the prompt at the table when leaving
 - iv. Push in your chairs
 - v. No book bags or coats on the marathon paths
 - d. Time and transition signals
 - i. Student can write for 2-3 minutes on each prompt.
 - ii. Signal for end of round could be music or a sound created by the teacher
3. At the end of all rounds, allow students to count the number of pages developed by the entire team. Another variation of this could be to count the number of words. Although this method could be tedious, students find this method fairer.
 4. At the beginning of the next lesson, allow students to look for powerful writing from their marathon pages, these parts and excerpts can be further developed in their writings.