**In-Class Narrative Writing Assignment**

**Why a timed writing like this?**

There are times in life that students will have to sit down, complete a timed writing, and then move on. It’s not a bad thing to practice all in one sitting in the 7th grade.

In fact, many national and state standards call for doing just that. For instance…

Common Core ELA-LITERACY.W.7.10

“Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.”

**Quiet Writing Time**

(Play some instrumental music in the background as they write!) This is a great activity for a Friday when things tend to get a little wild. There are times that a classroom can be loud with learning, and there are times when a classroom can be quiet with focused reflection.

It’s good to have some quiet time for students to write, think, write some more, and do a little mental problem-solving on their own. This activity also provides an opportunity for students to build up their “writer’s notebooks” (or whatever you use in your classroom to store student writing). Writer’s Notebooks can be used for all kinds of things throughout any writing unit because once those assignments are written, they can be used and re-used for many other things. In real life, many professional writers have hundreds and hundreds of “unfinished” and unpublished pieces that never see the light of day. And that’s ok! It’s about learning and growing. Not every single piece of writing is going to turn into a finished, polished product.

**Grading**

You can’t tell the kids that this isn’t for a “real” grade or that it’s not a “real” assignment— then they won’t do it ;) But you might end up with a basic “completion” grade for this type of activity depending on your grading structure or grading plans, but not every single thing has to be graded. Nor should it be. You can’t drown in student essays every single weekend. It’s not sustainable. Plus, you can do something like this every once in a while and then after a few weeks, students can go back to those “timed” writing pieces and select the best one or their favorite one to re-write/revise on a more formal scale.