

# 12 ENGAGING Year-End Activities & Ideas for Middle School ELA

## STUDENT-CENTERED - CREATIVE - COLLABORATIVE

### Idea 1

Use short Pixar videos to review topics and concepts that will, for sure, be valued in ELA the following year. Pixar videos can be found on YouTube and are amazingly engaging for reviewing themes, plot, character motivation, types of conflict, etc.

### Idea 2

Have students create their own *Kahoot* review games for their own review that they get to present to other students in the class to have them play, and / or that you can use the following year, too! The main thing will be ensuring that they're using high-level questions and good grammar/punctuation. [www.kahoot.com](http://www.kahoot.com)

### Idea 3

Students can write a collection of Six Word Memoirs with images and other “artifacts” to make the “stories” come alive. Topics could be student-chosen, or lessons / concepts learned, etc. If you're 1:1 students could create a class Google Slides collection with all their Six Word Memoirs together! (Google "Six Word Memoirs" and you'll find tons of easy examples to show so students know what to do... This is one of the most engaging and easy activities I've done! Kids love this stuff!!!)

### Idea 4

Have students use [storyboardthat.com](http://storyboardthat.com) (it's free!) or the iMovie app to create their own “review” of any of a number of concepts learned throughout the year. Use these videos (the good ones, wink-wink) as intros when teaching new concepts next year!

### Idea 5

Turn the concept of “Genius Hour” into however many days you'd like to take up. Example: “3-Day Genius Workshop” where students have 3 days to research a topic, skill, etc. they want to know more about... Create a presentation with the new information they learn, and present it to each other in small groups. This does not even have to be ELA-related!

### Idea 6

Have Students Write an “Advice BY Students, FOR Students” paragraph or list (or digital video!) for next year's students!

### **Idea 7**

Review the Parts of Speech with a “Parts of Speech Picnic”!! This will take a week. Students will plan an actual picnic, labeling EVERYTHING for the picnic using the parts of speech. They will write a script or a dialogue using all the labeled items in their conversation during the picnic AND in the script itself, hi-lighting all the parts of speech RE-introduce the parts of speech on Day 1. Tell them the picnic is on Friday. The goal is to plan an actual picnic, label everything their using for the picnic (they plan it themselves and they literally have to label every single item). Tuesday and Wednesday is planning the script, the items for the picnic, making the labels. Thursday is bringing in all the items, placing the labels on them, practicing with the script, etc. You may have to store some food items overnight in the fridge) and then Friday is the picnic with the scripts and the parts of speech!

### **Idea 8**

Students can create a “Year-End Student Memory Book” full of topics, personal stories, and reflections important to THEM from the past school year.

### **Idea 9**

Use Ted Talk videos in your classroom to spark discussion on topics interesting to middle school students (then have students create their own Ted Talks to present).

### **Idea 10**

Write a thank you letter to someone who helped them over the past year: family, friend, other teacher or staff member, etc. Use this as an authentic, student-centered way to teach the actual format of letter-writing)

### **Idea 11**

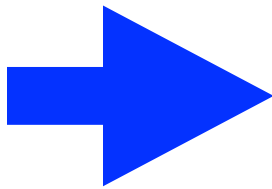
Quotable Quotes from Literature: Students can refer back to a favorite novel or short story or other reading material from the school year and create a “Pin-Worthy” quote (decor, style, etc.) so that the image of the quote itself also conveys the meaning of the quote.

### **Idea 12**

Provide students several options for “what to do” over a certain number of days (for example, this chart with 20 ideas!) Assign each activity a point value, and then tell students they have to earn a certain number of points. They might only do one large-point assignment or they could do several smaller-point assignments!

**NEED MORE IDEAS FOR ENGAGEMENT  
WITH ACTUAL, REAL EXAMPLES USING SPECIFIC  
CLASSROOM SCENARIOS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL ELA?**

If you haven't already, I'd love to invite you to *join me at one of my free trainings* designed to help you **teach Middle School ELA with less stress on your part and more engagement from students!**



Click on the free training below that resonates with you the most, and I'll see you there with **more freebies, too!**

**OPTION A - CLICK HERE**

**Engaging Test Prep Strategies for Middle School ELA**

*(that don't feel like test prep)*

**OPTION B - CLICK HERE**

**Centers & Stations in the Middle School ELA Classroom**

*(easy - realistic - actionable)*

**OPTION C - CLICK HERE**

**Realistic Ways to Differentiate in the Middle School ELA Class**

*(without going nuts)*