

*MINNESOTA WRITING PROJECT
DEMONSTRATION LESSON TEMPLATE*

Title: Tornado activity

Grade appropriate: This could easily work from 7th grade on up through college.

Approximate length of time to complete lesson: a class period – an hour or so.

- Objective (s) to be covered: **The main goal is to get those broad ideas funneled down into specific ideas for the student to begin a research paper.**

Specific standards addressed:

- Students realize the variety of ideas in the classroom. I think it makes for interesting conversations.
 - Sometimes this can have a wonderful pinball effect on other students' thinking process, creating ideas they never would have thought of without the activity.
 - I like the blend of whole class/individual work in one session.
 - I like the critical thinking and writing that it produces and its further potential.
 - The big one is when we get the topics of abortion, death penalty and euthanasia. Once those topics somehow get up on the board, they are the LAST ones getting a question from the classmate(s). This sends a powerful message to reconsider the topic!
 - They also realize that this writing activity should not be considered a solitary one. They sense that it is now a community of writing peers.
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Brief summary/outline:

(Is this lesson an intro? middle? end? All or part of a unit?
Does it scaffold a certain learning?)

1. Have students make 3 groups of 1-5.
2. Give them five broad topics. Gender Issues, Love, & Race relations.
3. Have them write subtopics underneath these headings.
4. Pause and look at all the ideas they have come up with.
5. Pick one and free write on it for five minutes.
6. Ask every student for the topic that they free wrote on.
7. List it on the board.
8. Ask all students to comment, ask a question, offer ideas on each other's idea.
9. Another freewrite for 5 minutes.
10. Discuss the **difference** between the first and second freewrite.

Resources: I just made this up in my head, so look below for the contact info.

Contact for additional information:

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