

# Quick Write - Explainer

What is a Quick Write?

How can we use Quick Write in our classrooms?

Why should we consider using Quick Writes in our classrooms, and across content areas?

## What is a Quick Write?

“Quick Write involves students writing rapidly and without stopping in response to a prompt, such as an open-ended question, an image, an audio clip or a short video.”

<https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/digital-learning-selector/LearningActivity/Card/548>

The goal is for students to write non-stop for a sustained, short period of time. (The time can be as short as a minute or as long as is appropriate, given the learners in the classroom and nature of the prompt being set.)

The **core purpose** of Quick Write is to:

- Increase the frequency of opportunity for students across our college to practise writing.
- Encourage and provide opportunities for writers to write without self-critique, without overthinking and without the fear of making mistakes.
- Build interest in writing for a range of purposes.
- Formatively assess students' knowledge and skills.

South Australian Literacy expert, Sharon Callen, discovered that while students were supported in her classrooms to develop writing skills via lots of modelling, lots of examples and lots of co-constructing, her students were still falling into a chasm between these supports and their ability to independently compose a text. She discovered Quick Write as a literacy strategy and now ranks it as one of the most effective literacy tools for helping to develop the writing skills of students.

“The function of Quick Writes is to limit the time for writing to free the mind from thinking that it cannot ‘do’. Once we get out of our own way, we are free to explore new territories, thoughts and ideas that can otherwise be halted by what every writer knows as 'writer's block'. We overthink it. Quick Writes give us no time to think, other than what is dwelling deep in our subconscious. Pencils and minds need to power through, not stopping. This takes some training, practice and persistence. It also takes an enabling adult to get us there, through modelling, coaching, to build writing muscle.” **Sharon Callen**

## Further Reading and Learning:

- <https://ablconnect.harvard.edu/quick-write>
- <https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/digital-learning-selector/LearningActivity/Card/548>
- <https://spencerauthor.com/prompts/>
- <https://oncourseworkshop.com/life-long-learning/six-ways-use-quick-writes-promote-learning/?clearCache=75849e9c-92c0-3abb-f0fe-97b14eefc449>
- <https://www.edutopia.org/article/50-writing-prompts-all-grade-levels-todd-finley?clearCache=5f89a6df-764b-670c-e81f-7fece8b9a7e1>
- <https://keystoliteracy.com/blog/the-power-of-quick-writes/>
- <https://www.writingmindset.org/blog/2019/4/21/the-power-of-three-minute-quick-writes>
- <https://www.teachific.com.au/blog/2022/11/13/105/how-using-mentor-texts-for-quick-writes-keeps-students-motivated>