

“Quick Tries” for Writing

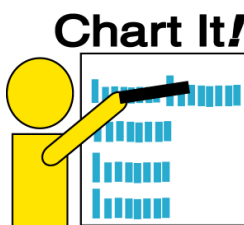
Letting students “have a go” with a writing idea

An effective way to get students to put a mini lesson or shared writing demonstration to use right away is to encourage **Quick Tries**. Following any lesson, have students try out the demonstrated strategy. For example, if you’ve just produced an opinion piece during shared or modeled writing with lots of reasons supporting the opinion, ask students to think of one more reason that wasn’t included and write out a sentence describing that reason as quickly as they can without worrying about spelling or even neatness! This is very similar to a “free write” but strategically focuses on the writing element the students just learned about. This also removes any pressure for correctness that students may feel when they are adding writing to a larger project.

Other examples of “quick tries” while teaching opinion writing might include:

- Write a list of issues you care about personally
- Try out various ways to state an opinion using a list of possible academic language frames
- Write to ask your reader to take an action as a result of the opinion shared in a piece

You’ll need to model this for your students to help them see how to really go for it during “quick tries”. Go ahead and show students how you try an idea, cross out and start over, or even stop mid-sentence if it isn’t going well. You may want to create a chart like this to free students up:



Quick Try Tips:

- Keep your pencil moving
- Don't worry about spelling
- Don't get too picky
- Try several ideas and don't worry about which is best