






# Power Writing

## Writing Routine 1

**Purpose:** Develop students' writing fluency; provide an opportunity for students to record their progress in writing fluency.

**Research:** Research shows that expert writers write longer strings of words before stopping to think than less skilled writers. Power writing practice helps students learn to get their words down on paper quickly. It also helps them overcome the tendency to stall before starting to write (Fisher & Frey 2007). While power writing can focus on any word or concept, this routine is most effective when key words and ideas relate to the topic or theme of a unit.

-  **1. Display a word or picture.** Choose a word or picture that will be motivating for students to write about. Invite them to think about the word or picture and what they know about the word or concept. Activate prior knowledge or experiences: *What do you think of when you hear/see \_\_\_\_\_?*
- 2. Set the timer.** The timer is usually set for one minute. In some cases you may want to vary the amount of time.
-  **3. Have students write.** Ask students to write as much as they can, as well as they can in one minute. If students at different proficiency levels need support, use the following multi-level strategies:
  - B** Beginning-level students can write single words as a list. Ask: *Write all the words you know.*
  - I** Intermediate students write sentences.
  - A AH** Encourage Advanced and Advanced High students to write paragraphs.
-  **4. Check work.** Have students check their spelling and grammar and circle any mistakes.
-  **5. Count words.** Have students count the number of words they wrote and record the number on their papers.
- 6. Repeat the procedure.** If time allows, have students create more than one passage. Repeat steps 2–5 one or two times.
- 7. Record results.** Have students record their best result and create a writing fluency graph. Over time, the graph will show students' growth in fluency and help motivate their progress as writers.
- 8. Adjust the time.** To develop fluency further, vary the amount of writing time from 30 seconds to two minutes or more in separate Power Writing sessions.



**Application**

**DAYS 1 & 6**

- Daily Writing (Days 1 and 6 of each lesson plan)

