



1 X 3 X 10 Writing Activity

1

paragraph

X

supporting details

3

descriptive words

10

minutes

The 1 x 3 x 10 writing activity is a great way to develop writing fluency in a short amount of time. It is a flexible activity and lots of fun. Because students are given a short amount of time to write, the writing task becomes a game as students race against the clock. There will not be time for prewriting and planning, so let students know that they have to put pen to paper and go! Students can write their responses in their journals, notebooks, or on a separate piece of paper.

Here are the steps:

1. Develop a writing task that is high interest and familiar. Students should use what they know and have need to support their ideas.
2. Provide a writing prompt verbally and in writing.
3. Establish your expectations. Don't allow students to ask questions once the time has started. Let students know that this is an exercise and will not hurt their grades if they don't finish on time.
4. Set students to task. Provide time benchmarks along the way.

Variations and adaptations to the writing activity.

We can change the activity to 1 x 3 x 20 if we want to give students more time to write. We could also change what the 1 x 3 x 10 means. For example, we could say, 1 (paragraph) 3 (details) for 10 (minutes). Consider the variations below.

1 paragraph	3 supporting details	5 minutes
1 sentence	3 descriptive words	2 minutes
1 claim	3 examples or evidence	8 minutes

Once students have written their 1 x 3 x 10, you can have students...

- read what they have written to the whole class.
- form groups of four to six and take turns and share their writing.
- collect their work and provide positive feedback.