Write to Learn Strategy

What is Write to Learn?

"Write to Learn" is a set of writing tools/assignments used in all content areas to improve students' thinking and deepen their comprehension of a text/content. Generally, writing-to-learn activities are short, informal writing tasks that help students think through key concepts or ideas presented in a lesson. These writing tasks are limited to less than five minutes of class time or are assigned as brief, out-of-class assignments.

Write to Learn Strategies

- **Provisional Writing**- Brief, daily writing that supports learning
- **Readable Writing**-Requires students to clarify and organize their thinking to develop on-demand essays or responses
- **Polished Writing**-engages students in the full writing and revision process

Write to Learn Planning Tips:

- What is your purpose in having students write? What standards do you intend to address?
- Will students' responses be used as the ongoing process of learning (provisional)? Or will the writing be more like a classroom assignment to prepare students for on-demand writing tasks (readable)? Or will it lead to a comprehensive product (polished)?
- How can you best phrase your writing prompt to elicit responses that will be useful in achieving your purpose?
- Will you allow time to have students reflect?

Where can you find resources/examples of Write to Learn?

- The book, *The Core Six Essential Strategies for Achieving Excellence with the Common Core* by Harvey F. Silver, R. Thomas Dewing, and Mathew J. Perini.
- Teachers Pay Teachers – Search "write to learn" lessons by grade level/topic/or even a specific text
- Another book, *Write to Learn* by Donald M. Murray, fifth edition.
- The WAC Clearinghouse website has examples: wac.colostate.edu/intro/pops.cfm