



5 MINUTE DESCRIPTIVE LISTS

NOTE: This activity can address the following Common Core Standards: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.K.2.C, L.K.2.D, L.1.2.E, L.2.5.A and W.4.3.D

This is a simple, quick and fun writing activity. It can be about ANY topic. It's also a great exercise to prepare students for descriptive writing pieces.

The easiest way to conduct this lesson is to have your students or child choose a photo, magazine picture or old calendar page to write about.



If you don't have access to a picture, choose a food that the students can write about and then eat, like watermelon!



Or choose a location! Take a piece of paper, clipboard and pen to a park, creek, restaurant, mall, hillside, playground to write about what they hear, see, feel, think.



Now for the steps!

1. Tell the storyline: *For 5 minutes you're going to write all the words that you think of when you look at your picture (or think of watermelon, or look at your location, etc.)*
2. Tell the students that the goal is to write as many related words as possible. Spelling is not the focus in this activity.
3. Explain to the students that if they want to write a word that they don't know how to spell, they should write it phonetically. That means that the child writes the sounds that he/she hears when the word is spoken.
4. Give students a blank piece of paper.
5. Encourage the students to write their lists in vertical columns. This isn't necessary but makes it easier for the students to read later.
6. Set the timer for 5 minutes.
7. Watch the students write.
8. When the 5 minutes is up, give your students time to show their pictures and read their lists!
9. Have them put their list and picture back to back in a page protector.