Beyond the 20 Page Paper: Using Informal Writing to Engage Your Class

Dr. Deborah Lee, Co-Director, MSU Maroon & Write QEP

Examples of low-stakes writing exercises include:

- Journaling: either structured or unstructured journal responses.
- Freewriting: prewriting technique that is usually conducted in class and lasts for a specified period of time.
- Brainstorming: formal or informal session that may occur individually or in groups; the focus is on developing a large number of ideas in response to a given prompt.
- Mini essays (microthemes): very short essays conducted in or outside of class.
- Think-Pair-Share: often used as a speaking exercise but can be modified to work with writing. A prompt is provided, individuals work on a response and then partner with a classmate to develop a team response.

In the Literature:


Revised 7/29/15