

Collaborative Write Ideas

After laying out first 7 routines, then just do repeated collaborative writes.

1. Do a whole group collaborative write all the way from reading together, picking ideas, create organizer together then check it off as you create a full piece of final writing together.

- Use frequent turn and talks, white boards/drafting ideas at seats to keep up engagement.

2. Next, begin to gradually release (Do parts of POW together in varied ways):

- Do a collaborative write where together pick ideas (reading a text together & picking ideas), make an organizer & maybe do a sentence or so together as a class. It is important for students to see how to turn an organizer into a piece of writing – how to take a trigger and turn it into a sentence. Then they write the rest in teams or by themselves.

Students can write in pairs at desks or in small groups at posted chart paper.

- Do collaborative write up to ending or do IDs but leave out the D and have them do that part by themselves or in pairs.

- Some teachers have students create an organizer together, and write the IDs together, then pass out the piece done together and students write the introduction (or ending)

- Seat kids in back of room or let them sit in other areas of the room as they write their own pieces independently & I work w/kids near me

- Some teachers do collaborative writes in small guided reading groups, to differentiate support

- Sometimes we released too soon! "Go write. (we check & see they are really struggling). Actually, c'mon back! We'll do this together some more."

A weekly schedule (after layout out first 7 routines) might be to do just repeated collaborative writes:

Mon – score cold write that students wrote on Friday, then set goals

Tues – lead a collaborative write with releasing some students for parts

Wed – continue & revise / score (score whatever section they wrote on their own)

Thurs – score the collaborative write and score whatever sections students did on their own

Every Fri – cold write (students read texts as HW or use science/SS content or main selection read during week)

How many collaborative writes do you do before you release?

I do 2-3 collaborative writes at least in the beginning, then test waters to release for certain elements (ie can they write an introduction now?). So we might not release every Friday at first. It takes a few weeks of more collaborative writes before we can begin cold write check ins. For first few weeks or months, we might collect cold writes every other week. There needs to be enough instruction in between for students to be able to show improvement on collaborative writes.

Also, we may see students master parts (introduction), then keep doing collaborative writes to teach IDs or links etc.