



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

WRITE PASS WRITE

Activity Description

Within minutes-long deadlines, students start writing a story about a chosen topic, then continue the story in front of them as papers are continually passed along to the next students. After papers return to their original owners, the story ending is written. This activity encourages students to do both free writing and peer editing. It works especially well with *Foundations of Democracy* when used with lessons about one of the four *Foundations* topics (authority, privacy, responsibility, justice). This activity also works well when preparing materials to be presented at the showcase for Project Citizen.

Suggested Grade Level

Upper elementary to high school

Estimated Time to Complete

Class period

Objectives

Students will be able to

- demonstrate control of standard English through grammar usage and mechanics (punctuation, capitalization, and spelling);
- demonstrate an understanding and correct use of a variety of sentence structures.

Materials Needed

- Paper
- Pens or pencils

Activity Procedures

1. The teacher has students take out a piece of paper. Students will title the paper whatever subject or theme the teacher decides.
2. The students have two minutes to start a story about the chosen topic. After two minutes each student is required to pass his or her paper to the next student.
3. The students have one minute to read over the story they now have and to correct grammatical mistakes if needed. Then they have one minute to continue the story.

4. The activity is continued until all papers have successfully made it around the whole room and are back with their original owners who get to write the ending.

Variations

- Divide students into groups of five to six instead to give more time to write.
- Don't have students correct papers, just have them do free writing.
- Topics can vary to any subject, theme or idea.