

Writing-to-Learn

We tend to create writing assignments as a means of assessing what students have learned. Writing-to-learn exercises are a different enterprise. They are short and are aimed at stimulating student thinking and reflection. They are written by and for the student as a means of collecting thoughts and getting them down on paper. They might later be extended or revised. Here's a list of some possible uses.

- To review material from previous class
- To Introduce a topic or unit
- To promote understanding of concepts
- To warm up a discussion
- To summarize a discussion
- To prompt students to connect ideas
- To practice applying ideas
- To "cool" a heated discussion
- To prompt student reflection
- To encourage active reading
- To prepare for an exam

In your group, discuss ways you have or might use writing-to-learn exercises.