



SUSPENSEFUL ROUND ROBIN WRITING

In this Creative Writing Round Robin activity, students will work in interactive writing groups to develop a variety of possible stories around a single prompt.

MATERIALS:

- A jar or bowl containing suspenseful story writing prompts
- a timing device

PROCEDURE:

1. Arrange the desks so that each group is in a circle. Allow each student to choose one prompt, not showing it to anyone else.
2. Each student is to have a sheet of paper on their desk and a writing utensil.
3. Set the timer for two minutes.
4. When time begins, each student will write the prompt they have chosen on the first line of their paper and continue with the story by building and adding to the prompt.
5. At the end of the 2 minutes, students stop writing and put their pencils down. They must stop, even if they are in a middle of a sentence. They pass their paper to the person on their left. They will also receive a paper from the person on their right.
6. This time you give them 3 minutes. During that time, they must read what the previous author has written and continue that story. At the end of the 3 minute segment, they again stop and pass their papers. The third writer has 4 minutes to write, the fourth writer has 5 minutes, and the fifth writer has 6 minutes. The final writing session should return the paper to its original owner for 7 minutes, where the story is ended.
7. The stories are then shared within the small groups. After they read them, each group may select one version to share with the class.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS:

- Each group may collaborate to combine, revise, and edit a final version of the story using the best plot, images, and details from all their stories. Remind students to review the elements of suspense stories, and to incorporate this framework into their finished piece.
- Have students illustrate their stories and post them on a bulletin board for all to share and enjoy.