

Tips to Get Them Writing

- In learning a skill, success is the most important motivation to continue.
- Have students write more than you read. If you read everything they write, they aren't writing enough.
- Communicate and model the writing process. Show students that it is a messy, complicated process that takes time, thought, and tons of work. Model every stage, read and discuss all types of writing at all stages. Celebrate and reward success at every stage, not just the final product. Have students keep ALL writing and allow them to return to drafts and continually rewrite and revise.
- Writing must be heard; teach students to listen to their writing and to the writing of others; teach them to trust their ears.
- Create writing topics that are clear, focused and specific
 - Discuss freedom --VS-- List the freedoms you enjoy and freedoms you are denied. What are the reasons for the denials? To what extent do you accept the reasons? Write an essay on the subject.
- Think of CRAFT when designing your assignments
 - Does the task specify a Context for the writer?
 - A Role?
 - An Audience?
 - A Format?
 - A Topic?
- Create writing topics that are meaningful within your students' experiences.
- Specify the steps you want students to follow in an assignment—particularly the prewriting steps such as discussing, interviewing, listing, freewriting, clustering, etc.
- Define the criteria you will use to evaluate student writing before they start writing.

"Inspiration usually comes during work, rather than before it."

~~ Madeleine L'Engle ~~