

Active Classroom Strategies

Activity Name	How to Activate
Quick Write	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask students to write what they know about a key idea or term in 30 seconds.
Make Headlines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have students write a headline that captures the key idea in a map, photo, timeline, or reading. • Ask students to share their headline with a partner.
Circle Write	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break into groups and provide a writing prompt or key question. • Have students write as much as they can in response to the question or prompt for one minute. • Next have students give their response to the person on their right. That person should improve or elaborate on the response where the other person left off. • Continue to pass each response to the right until the original response comes back to the first person. • Each group then reviews all the responses and decides which is the best composition and shares that with the larger group.
Write 1-Get 3 (or Write 5-Get 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask a question with multiple answers, such as: What are four key characteristics of _____ (a dictator)? What are the five key causes of _____? • Have students write down one response and then go around the room asking for three other responses. If they think a response is correct, ask them to write it down. • Have students keep asking and writing until they have three more responses on their page. • Have students share and discuss responses with the class.
Sticky Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask students to spend three minutes jotting down their response to a critical thinking question on a sticky note. • Ask students to work in pairs and share their responses. • Next ask students to post their sticky notes on the board or on chart paper and read all the notes. • Discuss similarities and differences in the responses as a group.
Connect Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select 10 to 12 words or phrases you think are important for students to know prior to reading a selection. • List the words and phrases on the board. • Ask students to "Connect Two" or choose two words they think might belong together, and state the reason. "I would connect _____ and _____ because _____." Consider posting their Connect Two statements on the board. • As students read the text they should look for evidence to support or refute their Connect Two statements.
Conversation With History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask students to choose one of the people mentioned or pictured in the text and write down a question they would like to ask that person if they could. • Next ask students to write what they think that person would say in response and then what they would say in response to that.