

Why Use Quickwrites?

Because...

- **Brainstorming is a valuable instructional tool.** Type One quickwrites adhere to these [four research-based guidelines](#) for effective brainstorming activities:
 1. Criticism is ruled out.
 2. It's acceptable and desired that creative ideas are shared in this risk-free environment.
 3. Quantity matters—the greater the number of ideas generated, the greater the chance for useful, creative ideas.
 4. In addition to contributing ideas independently, the ideas of two or more students can be combined into a new idea.
- **Quickwrites improve learning.** They can be used as *activators* (do-nows), *summarizers* (exit tickets), *reading checks*, or *critical thinking challenges*. Actually, the ways that quickwrites can be used to improve learning is endless, including preparing students for the future. Twenty-first century skills will require asking questions, formulating problems and challenges, processing information, thinking deeply and flexibly, drawing conclusions, and communicating effectively. Our risk-free quickwrites provide the perfect tool to reinforce these skills. Read more in Seif's [Eight Types of Instructional Strategies That Improve Learning in a 21st Century World](#).
- **Knowledge retrieval is essential to success.** Type Two quickwrites are not only a check for understanding, but a powerful tool for retrieval, the third step in the three-step-learning process which is part of the science of learning described in [Powerful Teaching: Unleash the Science of Learning](#):
 - Encoding is when we initially learn something.*
 - Storage is how long something is retained in mind.*
 - **Retrieval is when we access information and bring it to mind.**

* See our *Retrieval Routine* materials for strategies addressing the first two steps.

In *Make It Stick: The Science of Successful Learning*, authors Brown, Rodeiger, and McDaniel further validate Type Two quickwrites, emphasizing the research showing that periodic testing will not only show students where they are weak, but the retrieval required for these testing periods will solidify and strengthen what has been learned.

Suggested Materials—Many materials at collinsed.com support the use of quickwrites to improve learning in the classroom.

[Teacher Resources | Collins Education Associates](#) (free)
[Buy Products | Collins Education Associates](#) (for purchase)

A Few of Our Favorites:

[The Retrieval Routine Desktop Reference](#)
[Great Type Ones](#) and [Ten Great Type Twos](#)
[Graphics-Based Quickwrites](#)