

3. Why Use Writing to Learn Activities??

Benefits

- Deepens most students' engagement with course materials.
- Enhances learning
- Develops critical thinking
- Stimulates students' own thinking/writing by hearing what other students are writing
- Reduces writing apprehension and gives confidence to the inexperienced, unsure student
- Reduces the impersonality of large classes by giving the student and teacher more opportunity to interact
- Helps students make connections between the subject matter, their lives, and/or other courses (especially useful for general education programs)
- Helps students make their own meaning from subject matter
- Helps students identify what they do and don't know about a subject
- Diagnoses students' learning successes and problems and thus provide feedback for the teacher (Thais recommends periodically asking, "What's problematic for you now? What do you have questions about?")

Payoffs

- Students are better prepared for class.
- You will have better class discussions.
- You will have a clearer idea of where students need more explanation: you will have a "finger on the pulse" of the class.
- You will get to know your students better
- You should have better final product writing.