

The Power of Informal Writing

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Formal versus Informal Writing.

Informal writing requires no finished project. Informal writing is low stakes writing.

Formal writing does require finished project. Usually higher stakes.

Writing to Think.

Purpose: Student Engagement.

Clarifies what we think. Example....knitting project.

Accuracy and recall.

Forces us to remember, be concrete, elaborate, organize.

Students can prepare responses to questions.

If questions are well constructed, helps with critical thinking.

Examples of Informal Writing

Prompt to begin class.

Reading review.

Bring focus back in a discussion.

Minute Paper

Expressive Writing

Reflexivity

Based on Chapter 8, "The Importance of Writing for Learning" in Maxine P. Atkinson and Kathleen S. Lowney (2016) *In the Trenches: Teaching and Learning Sociology*. WW Norton.