



## Writing Fluency Strategy

Demonstrates the Power of Writing/Speaking in Complete Sentences.  
Great for quick topic review in content areas

**Round #1:** Have participants get out a piece of paper and pencil. Beforehand select four writing topics. Write two of the topics on the board.  
i.e.. football favorite dessert

- **Directions to learners:** *"Pick one of the topics and write it at the top of the paper. In a minute when I say, "GO" write as many words as you can, but this first time only write single words or short phrases. Don't worry about spelling or punctuation. Just try to write as many words as possible in the one minute. "*

**(Only do single words or phrases the very first time you do this activity.)**

The purpose is to demonstrate that it is much faster to write as we think! Having to write in single words or phrases slows down the thinking process.)

- **Time the learners using a hand timer with seconds.**
- **Directions to learners:** Say, "GO" and then in exactly one minute, say, "STOP".  
*"Now count the number of words you have written. If you have begun a word when told to stop, count it as one. Put the number of the words at the top of the page. "*
- **Have pre-written on the board the following table:**

# of Words	Round 1 Total	Round 2 Total
1-5		
6-10		
11-15		
16-20		
21-25		
26-30		
31-35		

Ask for a show of hands for how many words the students were able to write. Beginning with the 1-5, write down the number of learners who are at each level.

**Round #2:**

- **Directions to learners:** *" You are going to write again using two different topics, only this time, write in complete sentences. Don't worry about spelling or punctuation; just try to write as many words as possible in the one minute. Pick your topic and write it on the page. "*
- *Repeat "Go" and "Stop" directions.*
- **Time them for one minute.**
- **Directions to learners:** *" Count the number of words you've written. Remember if you have begun a word when told to stop, count it as one. Write your total at the top. "*

Write down the scores on the table in another column as before to note improvement.

- Process with learners as to the "WHY?"
- Directions to learners: *"Why was a difference in the two totals? How do we think? Do we think in single words or sentences most of the time?"*

\*\*\*\*Speaking in complete sentences is very important in writing in complete sentences.

**IMPORTANT:** After this first time just have them write in complete sentences. Conduct two writing sessions with two different topics each time.

Use this strategy to promote writing fluency every couple of weeks. Have them keep a record of their improvement over the year. This helps them set a personal goal if only mentally.

\*\*\*\*A great pre-writing processing strategy is to do a Pair Share. Have them select a partner and do the stop and switch for one minute as described in **Minute-mania**.