

Window Activity

This strategy is great for all content areas. It combines visual and empathy (affective) to make strong connections to the content area. The strategy focuses on descriptive writing and using sensory details. Students write for 3-10 minutes during each step.

Window Activity Making Connections through Writing



1. Imagine that you are in a dark room. A closed window with the blinds shut is the only thing present in the room. The blinds rise as you step to the closed window. Pressing your face to the thick glass you witness events.

Window Blinds Open Describe what you see



Describe what you see using many details.

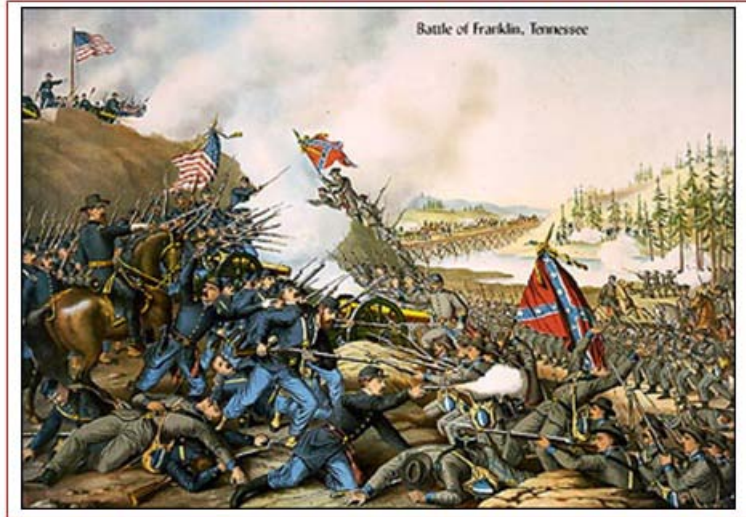
Option: Have students do a Fastwrite.

Pen/pencil to paper, students write with NO stopping. Write whatever comes to mind.

Brainstorm. List or narrative format. If a writer is stuck, they write a Trigger phrase until more ideas come. Trigger phrases are related to the picture and concept, e.g. Sacrifice, Family conflict.

2. Now the window opens allowing sounds to filter in. A breeze carries smells, and perhaps taste and texture (touch) to you.

Window Opens: Describe the scene using senses other than sight (sound, smell, taste, touch)



Option: Have students do a freewrite

Students pause, reflect, and then write. They can stop to think as often as needed. Results may be a narrative or list. Emphasize use of sensory details OTHER than sight descriptions. Advanced writers might try to include several taste or touch details.

3. Suddenly, you found yourself moving through the window and into the scene itself. Choose a role and describe the emotions or feelings of the event. **Must write in narrative format.**

You enter through the window

Describe the experience with you as a participant.



Most students will discover their best writing occurs here. Allow them to share in pairs, and have volunteers share to the class.