

The Power of Infographics

Teachers today have so much to accomplish, so much material to cover in just 180 days. Since every minute counts, it may seem like a waste of time to add another step to the student writing process. But it makes a difference.

When students pause and ponder before they start writing, they can take ownership of the material and formulate a plan. This kind of preparation builds enthusiasm and often makes drafting go more smoothly. It may also reduce the amount of time students spend revising.



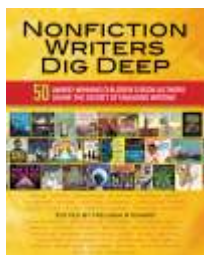
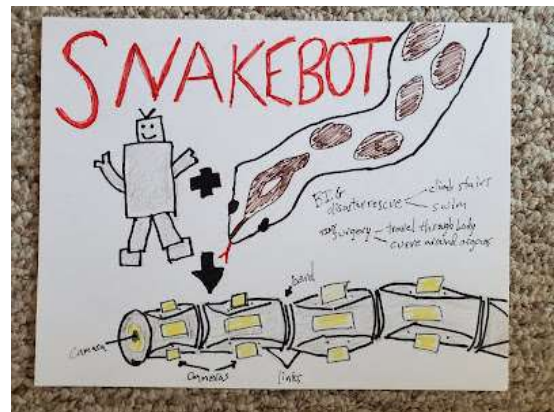
To try this technique in your classroom, begin by asking students to read through their notes and circle facts and ideas that seem particularly interesting and important. Then encourage them to use one of the thought prompts available in the pre-writing section [here](#), or simply have them make a list of the information they circled.

Next, ask students to think about the information using their head (their brain) *and* in their heart (their feelings). Then invite them to spend a few minutes free writing and sketching. This gives young writers time and space to digest the information, view it through their own lens, and make their own meaning.

Finally, encourage students to create an infographic that highlights what they're most excited to share with other people and why. The infographic could also show the order in which they plan to present the information, but it doesn't have to.

When students make the time to represent key parts of their research as infographics, they'll find their own special way of conveying the information.

Instead of being tempted to plagiarize, they'll create prose that's 100 percent their own.



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