

Low-Stakes Writing

The assignments below are short and informal. Although these assignments are brief they are necessary as they give students the opportunity to explore their thoughts relieving pressure of a more formal assignment. Additionally, they do not have to be graded and if you decide to grade them, they certainly will not add much to the load. Here, You can find a complete list and a more [Detailed Description of Each Assignment](#) or visit [Low-Stakes Writing](#).

The Question Box

Have students write questions about a lecture or a reading. They then drop the questions in a cardboard box. Over the next few classes the professor then incorporates the students' questions within the lecture or answers them directly.

Anticipatory Writing or Freewriting

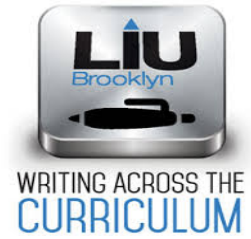
Students write about a particular topic before they read the text or hear the lecture. The purpose is to connect previous knowledge with new information.

Microthemes or Minute Papers

Short Essays written in class or homework. You can ask students to reflect on what they are learning or to give feedback.

Response Papers

These 1, 2 or 3 page assignments require students to think and reflect about the lesson or reading. These are typically assigned throughout the semester or following the end of each lesson.



Journals

Students will write in the journals regularly. Generally, a separate notebook is used to record the students' thoughts, insight and impressions about the lesson.

Additionally, students can look back at the journals to prepare for exams or course papers.

(adapted from Brad Hughes, Martin Nystrand, Paige Byum, Tom Curtis)