

# INVIGORATING ENGLISH

## Encouraging Writing Within Canvas K-6



You can use Canvas in a multitude of ways to create environments for students to write creatively, share their work, and engage with one another.

*this infographic is a collaboration between Bobby Pedersen and Erin Keefe, Principal Consultant, Canvas*

### 1 WRITING LOGS

WHY: Encourage expression, use of punctuation, and editing. Student evidence of different text types developing during the year creates a mini portfolio!

HOW:

- Set up each student with their own ongoing Discussion with the teacher or a peer | *Canvas Guide: How do I create a group discussion in a course?*
- Use the recording tool to record the students reading their writing aloud | *Canvas Guide: How do I record audio using the Rich Content Editor as a student?*

### 2 COLLABORATIONS

WHY: Multiple users can work together on the same document at the same time. These are saved in real-time, meaning a change made by any of its users will be immediately visible to everyone. | *Canvas Guides: Collaborations*

HOW:

- Have a 'Word War' or debate with pairs/small groups of students
- Students share work into a collaborative presentation (PowerPoint or Slides)
- Insert mock texts with deliberate errors for students to find the errors
- Copy and paste notes that everyone can access
- Share lists/agendas for upcoming synchronous class/group time/meeting
- Create a virtual whiteboard for everyone to continuously refer to

### 3 PEER REVIEWS

WHY: Peer reviews are a tool that allows communication between students and can help students master the concepts of a course and learn from each other.

HOW: A peer review assignment enables students to provide feedback on another student's assignment submission. | *Canvas Guide: How do I use peer review assignments in a course?*

### 4 WRITING DISPLAYS

WHY: Give students a chance to show off their work to the classroom and beyond!

HOW: Use online embedded tools like *Padlet* to showcase published writing for the class to enjoy, or for the school newsletter or website.

### 5 PROVOCATIONS

WHY: Stretch students' thinking and writing with prompts and images.

HOW: Provide a variety of images and wordy challenges. Harness discussions and assignments within Canvas to collect students' ideas based on these provocations. Website ideas for the provocations:

- *The Literacy Shed*
- *Pobble 365*

### 6 QUICK WRITES

WHY: Pinpoint specific writing skills with fun challenges.

HOW: Quick Writes can be set up as responses to Announcements or Discussions. Use images in your directions to set criteria for what you want each quick write to include. eg. two onomatopoeia, three adverbs, one simile, four adjectives, two headings...

### 7 GOAL SETTING & REFLECTION

WHY: Student goal setting and reflection is key to writing success.

HOW: Use Discussions, or embedded tools like Microsoft or Google forms as exit tickets or goal setting tools.

### 8 INTERVIEWS WITH AUTHORS

WHY: Use videos of popular authors to spark discussion, brainstorm other questions to ask, and to have students interview each other based on their own writing.

HOW: Embed the videos on a Page, in an Announcement, or in a Discussion.

### 9 BUMP IT UP

WHY: Elevate the writing process by allowing students to flex their feedback skills!

HOW: Place a piece of anonymous student work on a Discussion board and then ask students to discuss the elements that they can see being used in the piece of work (e.g. varied sentences are used, paragraphs with one idea etc.). Students could then give the piece of work a rating based on a rubric or scale you create. Students could even respond in audio or video to the Discussion post!

