

## Get Them Writing Quick Sheet



### 1. Getting the Idea

- A. Music
- B. Build a story from a song.
- C. Fan Fiction
- D. Fun Facts
- E. “What if?”
- F. Five possibilities for each story turning point

### 2. Research

- A. As much as possible, let them choose according to their own interests
- B. Encourage non-book research (interviews, tour of a place, family stories, person observation, lessons)
- C. When it’s books or websites, have them ask questions about what information they are looking for.

### 3. Dealing with Writer’s Block

- A. Is the block the result of weak choices?
- B. Not Enough Problems – “What is the worst thing I can do to my character right now?”
- C. Write in: “Something amazing happens here”

### 4. First Drafts

- A. Give them permission to write garbage
- B. First draft = write for yourself
- C. This is not the time to worry about spelling, grammar, punctuation.

### 5. Revision

- A. Let each draft focus on something different (one rewrite just for dialogue, another just for description, etc)
- B. Rather than corrections, ask questions for them to solve.
- C. Encourage them to edit for each other

### 6. Is there a point?

- A. School Literary Journal
- B. Writing Contests (Scholastic Art & Writing)
- C. School Art Night
- D. Or do they hope to be published one day?

### 7. Other thoughts...

- A. What about a Writing Club, sponsoring a timed writing contest?
- B. Teen Author Bootcamp (TeenAuthorBootcamp.com)
- C. “If you don’t write the idea in your head, no one ever will.”
- D. It is better to write poorly than to not write at all.