LOW-STAKES WRITING

Low-stakes writing is ungraded, informal writing.

Benefits of low-stakes writing:

- If students have written about something in class, even for a few minutes, they almost always have something to say on the subject.
- You don’t have to grade it or even read it!
- Students who write about the material are more likely to internalize it and perform better on exams.
- Students who practice low-stakes writing are likely to write better papers because they’ve road tested the material.
- It can be done at any time during the class: at the beginning, in the middle, or as exit writing (exit writing is usually collected and can give you a sense of what students are understanding especially if it’s anonymous).

Tips for using low-stakes writing:

It helps to give student something specific to write about. Here are some examples of writing prompts:

- Take five minutes to summarize what you remember from our last class.
- Write down five questions you have about the reading assignment/lecture.
- Write an exam question.
- Define (insert key concept here) from the reading in your own words.
- Exit writing: identify 2 questions you have as a result of today’s lecture or describe one thing you learned in class today. [This will help you assess the students’ experience of the class.]