

Activity Plan to Build Community



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- Aim:** To develop descriptive writing through word association
- Motivation:** What words come to mind when you think of your high school years at Huntington? What aspects of your experience do these words represent?
- Presentation:** Read a piece of your personal writing aloud to students and ask for feedback.
- What aspects of my personality are revealed in this piece?
- To which images could you relate on a personal level?
- What are your suggestions for further exploration?
- Share your experience writing this piece with students, paying close attention to the planning stages.
- Show copies of the piece at various stages of development.
- Note the sheer messiness of the writing process.
- Guided practice:** Students brainstorm words that represent themselves.
- They select one word on which to focus that best reflects their unique experience.
- They participate in a “quick write” in which they draft their own pieces based on the word of their choice.
- Choose volunteers to sit in the author’s chair and read their pieces aloud to the class.
- Class discussion ensues and the volunteers receive feedback.
- Create a plan for furthering this draft.
- Which part needs to be explained more?
- Is there a point at which my story lacks vivid details?
- What other word associations can be made to allow me to explore my unique experiences more profoundly?