

SPIRALING THOUGHTS



Description

Want to get your students writing? You will have them “spiraling” out of control as they share facts and reflections about a unit of study.

Materials

- Circle pattern for each student
- Colored pencil or marker for each student (It is best if each student has a different colored pencil or marker.)

Teacher Preparation

- Prior to the lesson, choose topics to be featured on the circles. Either write or print them in the center.
- Either precut the circles or allow students time to cut out the circles before starting the activity.

Procedure

1. Ask each student to look at the topic in the center of their circle.
2. Challenge each student to write a thought, fact, or perception they have when they read the topic. Instruct student to write their thought in a spiraling fashion around the circle with their marker. (Encourage them to begin in the center as they write.)
3. Instruct each student to stand up and find someone to exchange circles with in the room. The two who exchange circles are to record a thought on each other’s circles by continuing the spiral format.
4. Complete the same process three more times so that each student has five thoughts. (You will easily be able to assess if they have followed directions by the different colored thoughts on their circle.)
5. Debrief the thoughts and summarize what has been learned and address any misconceptions.