Unit: We Love Reading Plan, Communicate

EQ: How can readers communicate articulately and informatively about a piece of literature?

***Aim***: How do strong writers begin an essay?

***Mind Spark***: What is your technique for entering a pool with cold water? What does this reveal about who you are? What is the main idea

( “big idea”) of my example?

Strong writers figure out their writing habits by “trying on” different approaches.

* Jump in! Start recording your own ideas and thoughts about the theme (thesis) and then organize later 🡪 Focused Free Write
* One-toe-at-a-time! First I will write my introduction, then my body, then…

**NO MATTER WHAT APPROACH YOU USE, IT MAY BE HELPFUL TO WRITE YOUR THEME (THESIS) SOMEWHERE AT THE TOP IN BIG LETTERS. THIS WILL KEEP YOU FROM DIGRESSING**

**( LOSING FOCUS).**

**Focused Free-Write*: Writing Towards the Idea***

***Model : Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian***

**Thesis: Poverty can lead a person to lose faith in their own ability to succeed because sometimes when a person is poor they don’t have access to the same opportunities as people of a higher class.**

**Junior lives on the Rez, an impoverished area with little opportunity for success. He attends Wellpinnit High School, a sad excuse for a school. The teachers don’t take pride in their work, and sometimes don’t even show up to teach!!! Mr. P is one reason why Junior feels worthless. Mr. P sometimes teaches class in his pajamas, making Junior feel like his education is unimportant. No one takes education seriously on the Rez and Junior feels that his academic success won’t lead him anywhere. This becomes clear when Junior discovers his mother’s name on an old textbook. He can’t believe that in 30 years the reservation hasn’t bought new textbooks for students. Junior feels worthless because even the people who are supposed to know what’s best for him, the adults, the teachers on the Rez don’t make an effort to provide adequate materials for the students to learn. If your own people don’t believe you’re worth something, who will?**

***Focused Free Write: What did I do?***

***🡪 Used evidence to support my thesis***

***🡪 Stayed on topic! Did not digress ( go off track)***

***🡪 Followed my ideas and asked questions and observations***

***🡪 Used details from the text—not too much summary***

***🡪 Used summarized evidence***

***🡪 Didn’t use I or you***

***🡪 Didn’t leave the reader with the questions***

***🡪 Persuasive tone—writing like me… my own voice***

***Work Period***:

Identify the approach you will “try on” today. Set a goal for the work period.

*Example*: Today I will do a focused free write in order to figure out my own ideas and thoughts about the theme (thesis).

* Grab a computer if you need one. If you prefer to work on paper first, go for it!
* Start drafting your essays!
* Have your thesis at the top!
* If you need the help of a friend, whisper. This is a quiet work period.

Wrap Up: What did you do this class period? What was working for you? What was frustrating for you? What have you learned about yourself?

***Homework:*** Finish the class work you started today. Come in with it typed/organized.