

## Hello, Our Awesome Students

Please check your Canvas Announcements/school email for a special announcement from your ELA teachers. Our goal during this time is to have you read and write. This document explains the writing options we would like for you to take advantage of during the next two weeks.

You are living through an unprecedented moment in history—right now! Today, tomorrow, and the days that follow will be captured in history books. Someday, you will share stories with your children and grandchildren about living through this time. Because these days are historical, it is critical that we not let these events pass without capturing how they affect you, your family, your school, and your community. Since you will be “schooling” from home, I will describe here the daily recommended writing work that may be done outside the classroom.

**Daily Writing:** You will be asked to write for 10 minutes (or more) a day. You can do this in a paper notebook, in Notability, on a Google Doc, or another tool to capture your thoughts, questions, comments, and concerns about the events that are unfolding. I want you to capture this history—your history—any way you’d like. **Below are some suggestions for your daily writing, but you do not need to follow them. Feel free to generate your own thinking.**

- Capture how this virus has disrupted your school year—including sporting events, concerts, assemblies, dances.
- Discuss how your daily life has been disrupted.
- Share the effect it has had on your friends and family.
- As we go into more social isolation, you might write reviews of movies, television shows, podcasts, video games to share with your classmates. We will create digital spaces on Flipgrid, Canvas and Classroom to share this thinking (details to follow).
- Respond to any seed about the crisis you find interesting. A “seed” can be an article, a broadcast, a Tedtalk, a tweet, a photograph, a podcast, a film, an Instagram (or another online) post, a TikTok video, a political cartoon, a photograph—anything that spurs some thinking about the crisis. This is much like the free writing and quick writing we do in class.

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You are encouraged to find your own seeds—whatever you think is worth writing about—but if you have trouble getting started, we have shared a text set on Newsela with you or you might want to respond to one or more of the following seeds:

- [Two Woman Fell Sick, One Survived](#)
- [25 songs that matter now](#)
- [Coronavirus explained in a TedTalk](#)
- [Political cartoons: Corona News](#)
- [A soccer team is trapped](#)
- [Who will pay the salary of stadium workers? One player steps up.](#)
- [Student sent home for profiting on the selling of hand sanitizer](#)
- [Creating a coronavirus song list](#)
- [Podcast on the Coronavirus](#)
- Researchers are using a World of Warcraft scenario to understand COVID-19's spread: [PCGamer article.](#)
- [The power of social distancing](#)
- [Here are the workers most at risk](#)
- Lots of good info here: <https://www.nytimes.com/news-event/coronavirus>
- [A look at coronavirus through comics](#)
- [Is paper money safe?](#)
- [How can we stop the curve of infection?](#)

The sources above are listed if you need help getting started, but you may very easily find new seeds that encourage reflection. This story changes every day. Find seeds worthy of writing and thinking about. Be creative: Write across genres: poetry, dialogue (just capture a conversation between people), description: zoom in on a moment you experience; discuss songs that capture these events for you; find and respond to charts and graphs worth thinking about.

Or perhaps you'd like to make a photo journal/scrapbook. If so, here are some samples to spur your thinking:

- <https://www.creativelive.com/blog/scrapbook-ideas-for-beginners/>
- <https://www.pinterest.com/simonsaysstamp/scrapbook-layouts/>

Here is another site that shows ways of keeping interesting notebooks:  
<http://www.sharingournotebooks.amylv.com/>

You might also want to look at how other people in history captured historical events. Here, for example, is a look at the notebooks of Anne Frank, which has been read by millions of people:  
<https://www.annefrank.org/en/anne-frank/diary/complete-works-anne-frank/>

Again, be creative as you decide how best to chronicle your thinking. What is the best way to capture this historical moment? You decide. Be creative! Your daily writing will not be graded. So take risks. Be honest. **Try to create writing that you will be interested in re-reading years from now.** Chronicle your thinking as we navigate these uncertain days/weeks. If you do not have your notebook at home, you may write on paper or create a Google Doc. That said, if this quarantine is extended, we will create a digital space where we can eventually begin sharing our writing. You will not be asked to share everything you write, but occasionally you will be asked to join the written "conversation." I will be writing alongside you as well. Once we begin, I will be posting some drafts on Canvas and Flipgrid. Look for these.

Though we may not see each other for a while, we will combat "social distancing" by remaining connected to one another. There is strength in community, and it is this strength that will pull us through this event. This moment will pass, so don't let these days elapse without capturing your thinking and experiences. Capture your history in real time. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to email or message on Remind. I will respond daily.