

Doing More Isn't Doing Better: How to Be an English Teacher and Have a Life

Presented by:

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As a way to continue the conversation beyond just this convention and these 5 presenters, feel free to share your questions and tips. Share your name and Twitter handle (if you have one) so we know who is joining the conversation

Your Questions:

Have you heard of the five minute essays from teachers pay teachers?

My school has modified it to create a quicker way to grade essays. It also makes students accountable to their proofreading.

Survival Tips

@davstuartjr: [Setting a work schedule to make us better, saner teachers](#)

@BethShaum: Look into [bullet journaling](#). I have found that this method of keeping track of my to-do list has greatly increased my productivity and made me feel less guilty about not getting everything done because at the end of the day, I look at all I've checked off my to-do list and realized just how productive I was. And for someone like me who struggles with anxiety, this really helps me feel less overwhelmed when I have it written down in one specific place.

Partner paragraphs - I have them work together to create a single paragraph and it works really well. I hear them making the same editing comments to each other that I would say myself.

Peer grading – switch class sets of paragraphs or essays with similar class and have students grade each other based off of a rubric. When returned, if the student doesn't like his/her grade, they can write to me to justify the grade they think they deserve to me. That way, I only *really* have to grade a few.

@ctclassroom 1. Grade one thing per paper! We just spent an entire trimester grading ONLY claims/thesis statements (even though kids had to write the whole essay). Now that kids are great at it, we move onto grading another part of the paper: finding best evidence and

integrating those quotes into analysis sentences. Because we spent so much focused time on claims, their claims are typically great by this point. It's hard for anyone to get good at multiple things at once-- so focus on one at a time! 2. Spend five minutes at the end of every day reflecting on one thing you did that day that was important and meaningful work. -Abri & Emily

[@davidtEDU](#) Find ways to shorten your student video projects. [Use Vines, Twitter and Instagram videos](#). You won't have to wade through long videos in class or at home AND there won't be a divide in class between those who are editing experts and those who aren't

[@davidtEDU](#) you don't have to grade everything you assign, but what you can do is have students pick and choose some of those "ungraded" activities to talk about in a final reflection.

How do you move beyond survival into thriving in this profession?

[@davidtEDU](#) "What do you mean by thriving?" Thriving personally or professionally?

Other thoughts? Sources of inspiration to share?

GRADECAM--Allows you to create multiple choice questions that are converted into mini bubble sheets. You can then hold student answer sheets to your computer camera, and the site takes a picture and grades it for you. It costs, but has been useful to teachers in my building.

Camscanner: App - Take pictures of documents, etc and it will turn it into a pdf so you don't have to type things in.

Camtasia - similar to Screen Castify

[@BethShaum](#): Angela Watson's Truth for Teachers podcast has a lot of great survival tips. Put that in your podcast feed!