



The Future is Ours To See: Education Reform Exploration

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The Big Idea

There are so many ideas floating around regarding “education reform.” Everyone seems to have an opinion or idea on what should and should not happen in schools. In this demo, we will examine different perspectives on education reform, using close reading and writing strategies. We will use videos, cartoons, Facebook groups and articles as “text” to form a framework of understanding, and then synthesize these views into possible solutions of how we can affect positive change in our own classrooms and schools.

Classroom Goal

The goal is to apply this in your classroom with all students. This method can be used in in any subject, to use writing as a tool to think and learn, not just something that has to be polished and graded. I also hope to demystify the fear of writing for you and your students.

The Method

1. **Watch and write: 2 minutes**

Watch a [clip](#) of [President Obama](#) and write- what is President Obama saying about education reform?

2. **Share:** Read exactly what you wrote.

3. **Look and write!** Now go to [this](#) Facebook page about Badass Teachers- what are the Badass Teachers saying about education reform?

4. **Share-** turn to a partner and share.

5. **Hotspot share-** Now go back to the article on education reform. Pull out some hot spots from the article. Go around the room three times just reading the hot spots. It’s ok if someone read the hotspot before you, it’s worth hearing what everyone thinks.

6. **Write- 5 minutes**

Ok, now what are your thoughts on education reform? What do you think?

7. **Share/discussion**

8. **Write again!** What are you going to do about it? One action step you can take right now!! We will do this final write in a mission statement.

I am a teacher who believes I value..... I strive for..... I will create change by.....

The Wrap

The best part of the National Writing Project is the mission of teachers teaching teachers, and teacher leadership. NWP has taught me that if you get teachers together in a room, give them time and space and some great questions, solutions are found. Today we talked a lot about what others think the more important education reform should be, the best part is we found solutions together. Keep thinking and writing and we will make a difference!

