

Step 2: Sizzling Starts

“FANTASTIC. I want to know more – I want to write more – with the kids!”

Greg Fisher, Principal,
Heywood Consolidated PS

Action Activities

Five Minute Fast Starts

Here are some new topics for our ever popular Five Minute Fast Starts. The challenge is for students to write five Sizzling Starts in five minutes. (Yes that's right, one minute per start!) Remember the aim is NOT to make it hard work and ask students to write the whole article, just keep it fun, fast and stick to the starts.

1. *Animals should not be kept in zoos.*
2. *People should be allowed to beg on the streets.*
3. *Energy drinks like Mother and Red Bull are dangerous.*
4. *If women were in charge of the world, wars would end.*
5. *Santa Claus really does exist.*



Form groups and get students to share their starts with their friends. They laugh and learn so much from each other.

Three Word Challenge

Pair students up. Each person writes down three words on a piece of paper. e.g. 'soup', 'racing' and 'invisible'.

Then they swap papers. Students each get two minutes to write a Sizzling Start, using the three words.

*The last thing he ate was **soup**, three days ago. The note in front of him asked for food. Yet the man **racing** down the street, with the expensive Rolex on his wrist didn't even see him. When you are poor and need help, you are **invisible**.*

It doesn't really matter what you are arguing, as long as you are persuasive. The randomness of the words gets students thinking outside the square – i.e. creatively.

Headline of ads

Send students on a search for headlines that grab them. These are also a type of Sizzling Start. Great titles are very powerful – and thus very persuasive.