Introducing Bursts to Your Class
Quick Start Guide

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What are Bursts, and how do I use them?

Bursts are short-form writing exercises designed to foster student engagement, spark creativity, and build students' confidence as writers. They offer students the opportunity to write without self-censoring or worrying about being evaluated.

Use Bursts at the beginning of class as a five-minute warm-up activity. You can also encourage your students to log in and Burst when they've completed their work and are looking for a bit of fun!

Introduce Bursts to your students in 15 minutes.

Use this mini-lesson to get your students started with Bursts. Full lesson plans to introduce each type of Burst are also included in Teacher Resources.

Name the focus: Get your writing juices flowing.
Tell your students they will be learning a new way to generate ideas and have fun with writing.

Connection: Write in ways that are familiar and fun.
Bursts use forms of writing that your students may have seen before. Emphasize that the goal is to spur creativity and that their writing won't be evaluated or graded.

Instruction: Model Bursts for your students.
Log in to TenMarks Writing and go to the Demo Student account. For each Burst form, select a prompt from the Burst Topics tab (or use a randomly generated one from the student home page). Model writing a Burst of each type, making sure to make some mistakes. Think aloud that mistakes are a part of writing.

Application: Let your students Burst.
Have your students log in and practice writing Bursts on their own. There's no such thing as "finishing" Bursts—students should just pick another prompt and keep Bursting!

Closure: Share writing.
Have students share their writing with a partner. Encourage students to give specific positive feedback.

Use these go-to prompts to model Bursts.

You can use any of the prompts in the Burst Topics tab to model for your students. Here are some student favorites from each type of Burst.

Freewrite	Finish the story: I remember a time when I got my parents to… Should students be paid to complete homework? Why or why not?
Text Message	Write texts between the sun and the moon. Write texts between an apple and an orange.
Image Comment	Use the filters for *Animals* or *Food*.