



Timing Options for Boot Camps and Group Workshops

Original Timing

| | Segment | Length | Sample Timing |
|----|--|------------|---------------|
| 1 | Welcome | 10 minutes | 9:00 - 9:10 |
| 2 | Introduction: Finding Your Voice | 20 minutes | 9:10 - 9:30 |
| 3 | The Wow Method: Your College Essay In Ten Simple Steps | 20 minutes | 9:30 - 9:50 |
| 4 | Step 1: Understand the Prompt | 20 minutes | 9:50 - 10:10 |
| 5 | Step 2: Brainstorm Ideas | 30 minutes | 10:10 - 10:40 |
| 6 | Break | 10 minutes | 10:40 - 10:50 |
| 7 | Step 3: Focus on Theme | 20 minutes | 10:50 - 11:10 |
| 8 | Step 4: Free Write for Details | 30 minutes | 11:10 - 11:40 |
| 9 | Steps 5-10: Drafts and Reviews | 10 minutes | 11:40 - 11:50 |
| 10 | Conclusion/Next Steps | 10 minutes | 11:50 - 12:00 |

1 Hour (Intro to the College Essay)

Audience: Anyone at all. This version is informational only. It can be used as a kickoff for your private clients or as a general presentation for the public.

| | Segment | Length | Sample Timing |
|---|---|------------|---------------|
| 1 | Welcome, without introductory writing activity (student handout p 1) | 5 minutes | 9:00 - 9:05 |
| 2 | Introduction: Finding Your Voice | 20 minutes | 9:05 - 9:25 |
| 3 | The Wow Method: Your College Essay In Ten Simple Steps (shorten this) | 15 minutes | 9:25 - 9:40 |
| 4 | Step 1: Understand the Prompt | 20 minutes | 9:40 - 10:00 |

2 Hours (Intro. + How to Generate Topics and Think about Theme)

Audiences: 1) Students you will not see again; or 2) Students you will continue working with.
See the table for variations.

| | Segment | Length | Sample Timing |
|---|---|---------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Welcome | 10 minutes | 9:00 - 9:10 |
| 2 | Introduction: Finding Your Voice | 20 minutes | 9:10 - 9:30 |
| 3 | The Wow Method: Your College Essay In Ten Simple Steps | 20 minutes | 9:30 - 9:50 |
| 4 | Step 1: Understand the Prompt | 20 minutes | 9:50 - 10:10 |
| 5 | <p>Step 2: Brainstorm Ideas</p> <p>(No break)</p> <p>Spend more time here demonstrating how to turn student ideas into effective topics. Ask students to volunteer to discuss ideas with you out loud.</p> <p>Afterward, allow time for students to clarify their own ideas on paper, using your demonstrations as examples of how to move from generalities, clichés or tired ideas to specific stories.</p> | 40 minutes | 10:10 - 10:50 |
| 7 | <p>Step 3: Focus on Theme</p> <p>Explain the concept of theme. If you will never see these students again, have them complete the writing exercise.</p> <p>If you will continue working with students, stop before they settle on a topic and clarify theme. You should do this with them in your one-on-one brainstorm discussion. Students that you will continue working with should not start drafting essays until you have agreed on topic and theme.</p> | 20 minutes | 10:50 - 11:10 |

3 Hours (Full Curriculum)

Audiences: 1) Students you will not see again; or 2) Students who will continue working on their own in a school or organization setting

1 Day (Full Curriculum + Other Activities and Writing Time)

Audiences: 1) Students whose essays you will review; or 2) Students who expect to leave your workshop with a first draft of their essays

- Follow the guidelines for the 2-hour session, then allow time for individual brainstorm appointments. Reinforce the concept of theme during this discussion and help the student clarify the theme for their essay.
- After their private brainstorm appointments, students continue with Steps 3 and 4. Allow 20 minutes for this activity on their own, then review their work quickly before they start writing a draft. You are just checking that the theme matches what you discussed. Do not comment on the free writing.
- While you are brainstorming with individual students, make sure you have non-essay tasks for the others to complete. You might spend 30-45 minutes with each student.
- Once you have approved Steps 3 and 4, students can begin writing essay drafts.

1 Week (Full Curriculum + Time to Write and Revise at Least one Essay)

Audience: Students who expect to complete at least one essay with you.

Follow the guidelines for the 1-day session but add activities to fill the rest of the week.