



Improving the Blank Page

Acadiana Writing Project & Lafayette GEAR UP

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette



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Improving the Blank Page

Using creative writing strategies to improve writing proficiency and produce college-ready writers.





Poetry must be made by all.

~Comte de Lautreamont

YOUNG POETS

**Write as you will
In whatever style you like
Too much blood has run under the bridge
To go on believing
That only one road is right.**

In poetry everything is permitted.

**With only this condition of course,
You have to improve the blank page.**

(trans. by Miller Williams)

Nicanor Parra

National Writing Project

It is part of the philosophy of the National (and Acadiana) Writing Project that writing should be taught at every grade level. While there is not one correct method or strategy to teaching writing, it is important for teachers to be well informed and effective in their teaching. There are numerous approaches to the teaching of writing and effective teacher-led professional development is one way to share various approaches to teaching writing.

National Writing Project (NPW.org)

Locations of National Writing Project sites. ☆

9,037 views

SHARE

NWP Sites

• All items

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Six-Word Memoirs

SMITHMAG.NET

Not Quite What I Was Planning

Six-Word Memoirs by Writers Famous & Obscure

Coming February 2008
from SMITH Magazine & Harper Perennial

Six Word Memoirs



The Procedure

1. Show video clip from Smith Magazine about six word memoirs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBnPODoGjRI&t=6s>

2. Write a six word memoir.

3. Next, write a six word educational memoir (history of educational experiences).

4. Finally, write a six word philosophy of teaching/education.

Classroom Applications

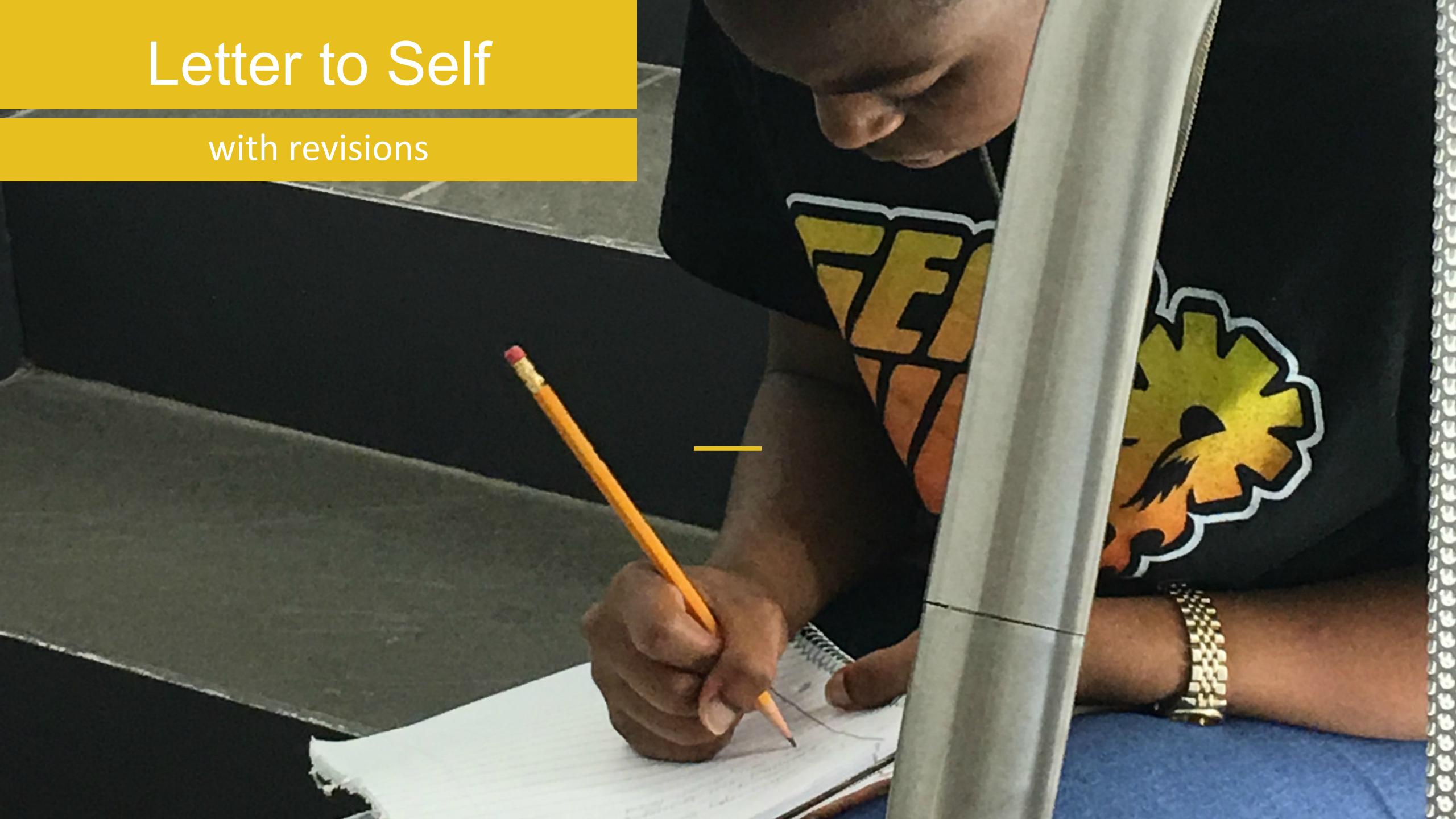
- Improving the blank page
- Condensed review of topic studied
- Entry/Exit slip

Something to Write About!



Letter to Self

with revisions



The Procedure

1. Have students write a letter to their future self. You may choose to do this several ways depending on when you do it. We suggest:
 - a. beginning of the year to return half way or at the end of the year
 - b. end of the school year to return at the start of the following school year

The Procedure

2. Depending on when you assign your letter and what you want your students to focus on will determine the content. You may choose to:
 - a. have students write about what they hope to do this school year
 - b. what they were successful at during the year
 - c. what they hope to improve upon in the future

The Procedure

3. Read the Raymond Carver poem, “Loafing”
4. The poem is exactly 66 words. Instruct students to cut 11 words from the poem.

*You may choose to have a few volunteers read their new poem or have students share in a small-group setting.
5. Continue the process of removing 11 words from the poem at a time until only 11 words remain.
6. Have all students share their remaining 11 words in their new poem.

The Procedure

7. Now, have students cut down their letter to future self down to just 11 words. Students may then transfer this to the back of a postcard or seal it in an envelope.
8. The teacher will return (in class or through the mail) the letter later to remind the student of their goals and plans for academic success.

Classroom Applications

- Beginning or closing activity for the school year
- Ice breaker to get to know students
- Means of creating a class goal or motto for the year

**This could be connected to six-word stories!

ALL WE NEED ARE SIX WORDS

