

# Make Your Own 'Quick-Fire Write'

Making your own Quick-Fire Write video is a great way for pupils to write explanation texts with purpose, as their writing and videos can be added to the LitFilmFest website for other schools to use. Use this as a starting point for any topic, or as an endpoint to summarise and share pupils' learning. This plan could be compressed into one session, but equally you may want to take a week or more to refine the writing and create the final video.

## Pick your topic or issue

1. **Choose what** pupils will write their Quick-Fire Write about. A topic in history? Science? Or something completely different? Just check the website to make sure there isn't already a Quick-Fire Write on the same topic or issue! *e.g. The Romans, Weather...*
2. **Decide an initial question** to focus on within the topic - this could be suggested by the teacher or pupils could generate their own. *e.g. How did the Romans affect life in Britain?*

## Research

3. Give pupils time to **research around the initial question**. They might create mind maps to gather notes. Encourage them to be balanced if looking at an issue that has two sides. Focus on gathering:
  - a. Key words and phrases which are important to understand and explain
  - b. Useful and relevant facts and figures. *e.g. Only 10% of plastic bottles are recycled after use.*
4. Pupils should now **decide 3 more questions**, based on their research, which they want people to answer at the end of their Quick-Fire Write. Discuss how they can create engaging questions:
  - a. The aim is not to test knowledge, rather to develop opinions
  - b. Can we ask similar questions from different points of view?
  - c. Asking a mix of general questions or that focus in on specific points of the topic
  - d. Asking people to share personal opinions

## Write

5. Now it's time to **write the script** - this may take drafting and editing time. The word count will be up to 400 words, and last no longer than 3mins when read out, so make sure the pupils don't write too much - it is quality over quantity. They can use the template attached to help structure their script. **Structure:**
  - a. Opening paragraph - summarise issue with key words/phrases
  - b. Pick 1 or 2 more detailed elements to explore in following paragraphs:
    - i. If presenting an argument, inform the audience about both sides.
    - ii. Order the paragraphs in terms of importance
    - iii. Use short clear statements to allow reflection and questions keep people engaged.
  - c. Finish with a final sentence summarising the topic and then share the questions.

## Record and create

6. Recording and editing can be done very easily by pupils using the free [Adobe Spark Video](#) app. You can watch our videos to help with editing on Spark, but here are some specific guidelines for a good Quick-Fire Write.
  - a. Aim for a no more than a three minute long video, recording a sentence or two on each slide.
  - b. Use a variety of photographs and layouts to illustrate the ideas.
  - c. Include titles and use key words on screen to help focus what each slide is about.
  - d. Write the questions on screen at the end of the video.

## Share

7. We love to share pupils' writing and videos as part of the Quick-Fire Write series on our website. This means others are able to use and benefit from them too, as well as giving children a sense of pride in having their work published online. Share your videos and work with us at [info@litfilmfest.com](mailto:info@litfilmfest.com); you can share the video link straight from the Adobe Spark app.