**Speed Dating 101**

Directions: You will receive a prompt on a card. You will have **5 minutes** to “get acquainted” with it. Examine its meaning, peer into its soul and decide how to “make conversation” with it for a ‘prewrite.’ You won’t actually write the essay, just flirt with the concepts, brainstorming and **[1] listing a title, author, and character(s),   
[2] designing a plan that may bullet some main points, and   
[3] writing a thesis or introductory sentence that doesn’t simply rephrase the prompt.**

Record what you would use *if* you 40 minutes—a ‘serious commitment’ in terms of AP dating/writing ☺

At the end of 5 minutes, I will call time and you will pass the prompt on to the next student, receiving a new one in turn. After 35 minutes, we will stop and assess your responses.

Happy dating!

Here’s my original post:

Mary Filak

Our school vacation begins next Friday, so our AP Language students will be on break until they take their Language Exam at 7:30 Monday morning. Many are also missing the Thurs. and Fri. prior to vacation because of a band trip to Boston, so we’re going to try a speed review on Tues.

I’ve collected a dozen open ended prompts from review texts and old AP Lang. Exams and pasted them on large index cards. Each student starts with an index card prompt and has 5 minutes to “get acquainted” with it by prewriting. Then I call time and the card moves to the next student. We’ll do this for about 35 minutes, then the students will get into groups and share their prewrites. It’s a way to get them to think quickly and broadly about a wide range of issues and not panic when they see a question they don’t feel prepared to answer. I’ve pasted the direction sheet below. If I have time, I’ll paste magazine pictures of loving couples on the backs of the cards for laughs. We all need some humor right now.

Mary Filak

My actual adaptation of the speed dating for my students is pasted below. I printed the directions on top of a big heart, using a PowerPoint slide with hearts as the bullets. I had fun with it.

Carol Wingard

Oh, and just for fun, we also tried to make The Great Gatsby fit every prompt - we were able to do it, showing them that as long as they know a few books well, they will have plenty to write about.

Vicky Hathaway

Speed Dating:

Open Prompts   
I LOVE THIS!

Dear **Lover** of All Things in AP LANG: You will receive a prompt on a **red heart**. You will have 5 minutes to **“get acquainted”** with it. **Examine its meaning, peer into its soul, and decide how to “make conversation”** with it for a prewrite. You don’t have to actually write the essay; just **flirt** with the concepts, brainstorming and listing what you would use IF you had to spend 40 minutes, a **serious commitment** in terms of AP **dating**/writing☺.

* Consider all the literature we read. Write abbreviations for your works now:

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* **PLAIDS:** **P**assion, **L**ink (examples to each other AND to prompt), **A**ppropriateness, **I**nsight, **D**epth of Knowledge, **S**pecificity
* Remember: There are many rooms in the HOUSE OF NINE. Win the “heart” of the AP Reader.
* At the end of 5 minutes, I will call time and you will pass the prompt on to the next student, receiving a new one in turn. After 25 minutes, we will stop and assess your responses.
* Happy dating!

write down a title and author, list character(s) we’d discuss, bullet some main points, and write a thesis/intro sentence that didn’t simply rephrase the prompt. After the 25 minutes, we’d shared titles and thesis statements.

Then I gave them a packet with student samples from each prompt without the scores. They met in groups and scored them. After a little discussion and sharing scores, I read them the commentary. They were pleased that they did notice similar things to the readers. It also showed them what they still need to do, which is review about 5 titles they know well.

Vicky Hathaway