Name Date

Focused Free Write

Watermelon idea = Big topic Example: Fun times I have with my dog

Seed idea = Focused, narrow, or small topic Example: When I spotted my dog at the pound

and knew she was the one for me.

1. For this task, you choose the seed story that you would like to share. You may select any appropriate story. Pick a story that you can tell well, that you can describe in detail, and that has a specific purpose that makes it worthy of being shared (e.g., It is heart-warming, sad, exciting, hilarious, etc.)
2. For the next 5 minutes, make a list of seed ideas about true stories that you would want to share.
3. Circle the seed idea above that you will focus upon for your writing.
4. Zoom in on the most important part of your memory and make a sketch (like a cartoon strip) to show the order of your story. Take the next 7-10 minutes to make your drawing on this page. You may use another sheet of white paper if you wish.
5. Turn to your partner and share your story in whisper tones. When you have finished telling your story, listen to his or her story.
6. Once you have both shared, you need to get lined paper and write your story. If you make a mistake, cross it out, make your correction and move on. Your story should include details, a clear sequence, dialogue, and proper punctuation. You will write or revise for the remainder of the hour. If you do not finish, work on this as homework. The finished draft is due on Monday.