

LET'S GET READY TO WRITE



# SKETCH NOTES Prewriting Activity



# FOR EDUCATORS

Sketchnotes help bring meaning to life visually. For students who are struggling to figure out what to write about a book, creating a piece of sketchnotes after reading, discussing, and considering a novel will help them to highlight what was important and make connections between different trains of thought.

This activity will help them brainstorm before beginning a paper. As they identify key themes and quotations, they can begin building an argument and support for it.

I suggest you show them a short (and amazing) youtube clip before you begin. It's called "Sketcho Frenzy: The Basics of Visual Note Taking."

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gY9KdRfNN9w>

But if you don't have the time, inclination, or tech, the handout says everything you need your students to know.

Give students thirty or so minutes to complete this exercise in class. First they'll create their sketchnotes, then they'll be guided through some questions to help them draw an argument and several points for their paper from those sketchnotes.

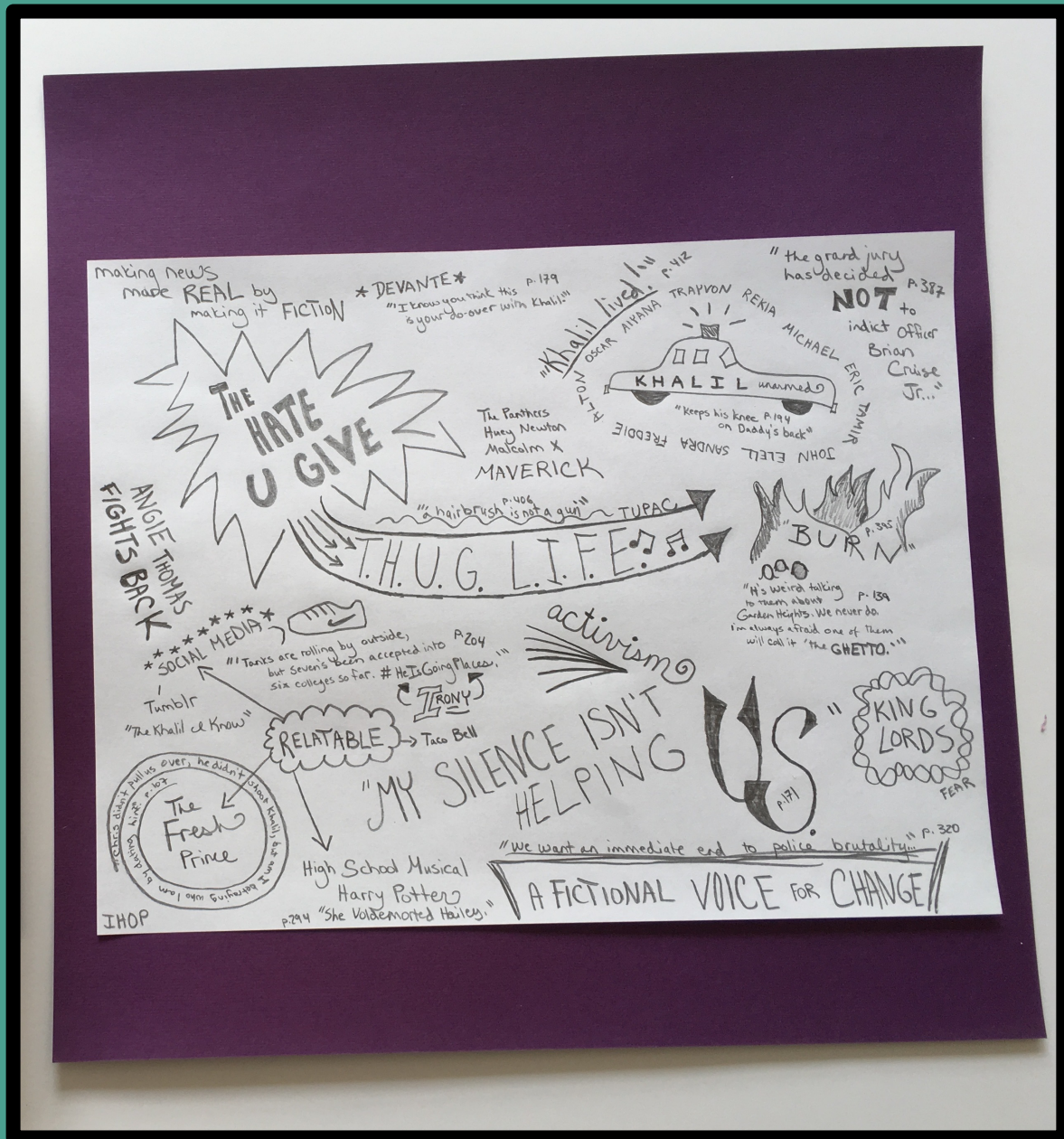
What's included:

**A Quick Guide for Creating Sketchnotes:** Give students this handout and a blank piece of paper to sketchnote on. Gel pens or sharpies are a bonus, but not needed. Then as students begin to finish, let them take the next handout and figure out their arguments.

**From Sketchnotes to Arguments:** This handout guides students through perusing their sketchnotes to discover what really matters most and decide what to argue about it and how to prove that argument.



# Example Sketch Notes for *The Hate U Give*



The creator of these sketch notes followed the steps in the activity, first sketching important quotations and ideas, then adding in main points and arguments. Eventually, she decided to write a paper about how Angie Thomas uses her fiction to make recent real life events more relatable and easier to understand for readers who have never experienced them.

# Sketchnotes

## LET YOU SHOW WHAT MATTERS MOST



*Try sketchnoting in preparation for writing your paper. Go back through the text and follow these steps.*



### *Find Meaning*

Write down what feels important to you.

Put connected ideas and quotations near each other. Make big ideas big and bold on the paper.



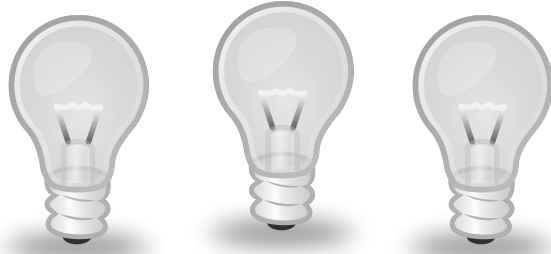
### *Connect the Dots*

Add arrows. Lines. Conversation bubbles. Thought bubbles. Symbols. Frames. Containers. Sketches. Doodles. Numbers.



### *Bring it together*

As you look over the quotes and notes you have made, begin to add in big points and arguments you could make based on what you see.



## From Sketchnotes to Arguments

1. Look back over your sketchnotes. What feels like the most important main idea to you?
2. Now that you know what you want to focus on, what can you ARGUE about this main idea? What will your thesis be?
3. Now explore your sketchnotes for the big points that will help you make this argument. How can you prove this thesis?
4. Finally, look for the quotations that are going to help you prove each of these big points. If you are missing a quotation for one or two points, now is a good time to dive back into the text and find a good one (or two).





## I'm so glad you stopped by SPARK CREATIVITY!

I love providing the resources and strategies you need to turn your ELA classroom into a joyfully creative community.

In my first years of teaching I regularly worked fifteen hour days. Every evening I was designing poetry slam and literature circle units, speed-reading books on portfolio learning and differentiation, baking cookies for Canterbury Tales story pilgrimages and project showcase parties, shopping for theater props and e-mailing guest speakers. I was a teacher obsessed by pedagogy.

Over the years I began to share what I was learning with my colleagues through presentations, articles, and even a teachers' breakfast club. I realized I love helping teachers inspire students.

**When you choose my resources, you'll get the best I have to offer. You'll find your classroom becoming more engaging and joyful without sacrificing your sleep and personal life. And that will make us both so happy!**

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I'd love to share my best ideas with you on a regular basis. Have you checked out my website, <http://nowsparkcreativity.blogspot.com>? I post creative teaching strategies and engaging ideas there two or three times a week, and I'd love to share them with you.

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If you're looking for a supportive community where you can talk about your creative teaching ideas and get help with your challenges, come on over and join the conversation in my Facebook Group, "Creative High School English" at <http://bit.ly/creativeELAgrou>.



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For questions about anything and everything, you can contact me at [betsy@nowsparkcreativity.com](mailto:betsy@nowsparkcreativity.com).

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