

# directions

This fun way of sharing writing came from a time when I was having a lot of difficulty celebrating student writing. I was at a new school and writing wasn't necessarily taught the way I was used to, BUT I needed to get my students excited about their writing. I wanted them to celebrate how far they had come. Enter: musical essays.

Students were already sitting in rows because it was testing season. I used this setup to my advantage. Here's how it worked:

- Each student receives a Musical Essays sheet. They write their name and the title of their essay. **This sheet will travel or stay WITH their essay.** This is very important. You have two options: you can **move the essays** or **move the students**. I've tried both. It depends on your students.
- Students began by passing their essay forward or moving to the next seat. I explained to students that they only had a few minutes (less than that as time went on) to read their classmates' writing and respond. During that time, they were supposed to look for something specific they liked about their writing. Not just, "I like your writing." or "It was interesting." They need to find a **Glow** (something that glows with their writing) and a **Grow** (one thing the writer could do to make their writing even better).
- **Music:** Choose some music that is appropriate for students. (I know that's a given.) I enjoy Jack Johnson radio or The Piano Guys radio on [Pandora](#). While students are reading the writing, the music is NOT playing. When students hear the music play, they move to the next seat. Students are not going to be able to read EVERY essay. So you could keep it moving by having students pass or move until the music stops, meaning it might not be the seat that was next. They keep moving until the music stops.
- Repeat the process.

## Quick Reminders:

- Keep in mind that students may not be able to complete the whole sheet depending on time. That's okay!
- Remind students to be kind and respectful when making the "**Grows.**"

Happy Writing!  
Jessica

# Musical Essays



Writer: \_\_\_\_\_

Essay \_\_\_\_\_

Glows! Your writing GLOWS because you...	Time to GROW! Your writing can GROW if you....
	Reader ① _____
	Reader ② _____
	Reader ③ _____
	Reader ④ _____
	Reader ⑤ _____
	Reader ⑥ _____
	Reader ⑦ _____

# Musical Essays

Glows! Your writing GLOWS because you...	Time to GROW! Your writing can GROW if you....
	Reader 8 _____
	Reader 9 _____
	Reader 10 _____
	Reader 11 _____
	Reader 12 _____
	Reader 13 _____
	Reader 14 _____
	Reader 15 _____