

THE LITERACY DEN

THE LITERACY NEWSLETTER OF MINOR HIGH SCHOOL



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Ms. LaDara Lee! Ms. Lee is a CTE Business Tech Applications (and other CTE courses) teacher. During a recent classroom visit, she was reviewing an interdisciplinary project that combined both computer applications and writing. This culminating project required students to produce a digital autobiography with various writing prompts while infusing it with their learning of formatting, animations, hyperlinks, and insertion of video into presentation platforms such as Google slides or Prezi . When asked about the importance of a project that focuses on content area skills and writing, Ms. Lee stated that "it was important for students to have a hands-on, minds-on experience during blended learning." She mentioned that "writing is important, even in CTE courses because it expands students thinking. Incorporating writing helps them to take their thinking to the next level." From a social/emotional standpoint, Ms. Lee felt that this project also allows students to feel seen and heard, which is necessary during the time of COVID-19 teaching and learning.

KEY ARTICLE

CTE courses are a great place to infuse literacy. This is especially true during blended learning when hands on activities are difficult to implement. See article: [Literacy Skills in Career and Technical Classes](#) (click title).

POWER STRATEGIES

Blended learning might not seem to be a good time to incorporate writing. However, writing should be a centerpiece of any class, anytime because of its benefits to learners. Try these resources:

1. [Writing prompts](#)
2. [Writing stems](#)

DR. NELSON'S ADVICE

Writing is more important than ever right now. It is important that in every class, everyday that students are allowed to engage in meaningful, authentic writing. Writing should be used throughout the entire learning process: writing to learn and writing to show learning. We are at great risk of student learning loss for a variety of reasons during blended learning. However, the more powerful practices we incorporate, the less learning loss there will be. Writing is a powerful tool for students to express themselves, show their thinking, and even reinforce new knowledge. Let's lean on the power of writing, even now!