**Walking to Inspire Writing**

**UCTE Conference**

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**What? Why? How?**

*A Walk and Write is meant to help participants think of themselves as writers. During the “marathon” you have an audience (your group members) and a situation (the places you stop). The different places you stop are meant to create ideas for writing. They may spark a memory, strong emotion, an idea, or they may simply prompt a descriptive piece. Whatever it sparks, write about it (or whatever is on your mind).*

*Walk and Write activities are quick ways to solidify communities of writers. As they come to know one another through their conversations and their writing, trust grows. Bonds form. Writing happens.*

**Walk and Write Directions**

1. Form groups of 3-4

2. Walk somewhere where you can sit and write. You should visit as you walk.

3. When you get to a spot, write for 10 minutes—and have someone keep time.

4. After writing, each person in the group should read his/her writing to the group. If you are in a place that isn’t conducive to reading aloud, move somewhere that is appropriate and do the reading.

5. The group’s only response to the reading should be “Thank you.” No praise or criticism.

6. If there is time, repeat the process.

7. Questions to think about: What did it do for you as a writer? What could this do for your students? How can you see this being used effectively in your classroom? What potential problems do you see—and how might you overcome them?