



One Book, One Community 2023

***Views From the Hot Seat*** by Michael Gunther

Curriculum and Program Guide  
for Schools and Public Libraries

[One Book, One Community Committee](#)

Contact Information:

[onebooktuscarawas@gmail.com](mailto:onebooktuscarawas@gmail.com)

# Discussion Questions or Short Writing Exercises

Standards:

1. W.9-10.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
  - a. a. Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.
  - b. b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
  - c. c. Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole.
  - d. d. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.
  - e. e. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.
2. W.9-10.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
3. W.9-10.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
4. W.9-10.10 Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.
5. SL.9-10.1 Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 9–10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
6. SL.9-10.3 Evaluate a speaker's perspective, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, identifying any fallacious reasoning or exaggerated or distorted evidence.
7. SL.9-10.5 Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.

1. One of Michael Gunther's inspirations for writing this book was a list of "Things to do when you retire". One of the items was to write a book. Another motivator for Gunther was his grandchildren. Gunther wants them to know who their grandfather was. What activities do you participate in that you are passionate about? Who pushes you to continue to be passionate about these activities?
2. Do you have any interests that you wish you had more time or motivation to develop or explore? What is holding you back from developing these interests? How can we support and encourage others to pursue their interests?
3. In a presentation about *Views From the Hot Seat*, Michael Gunther said, "I'm a firm believer we should thank people long before they die". In what ways do we express our "Thanks" to those around us? What are ways that we receive "Thanks" from those around us? What are ways that we receive "Thanks" from society?
4. How often do you write? What do you typically write about? What inspires you to write? What would motivate you to write more?
5. Michael Gunther has impacted Tuscarawas County and surrounding areas in many ways through teaching and coaching. Gunther said, "I appreciated being part of something special, being loyal to a cause and loyal to a team is something I value". In what ways are you impacting the communities you have connections with? Are you satisfied with the impact that you have?
6. In our childhood, we are shaped and molded by environmental factors that we are not aware of at the time. What factors from your childhood continue to influence you in positive or negative ways?

7. While reflecting on his 35 year career in education, Gunther said, "I wanted to be a teacher that just happened to coach. I had a great career and I have no regrets". What activities/jobs/associations have you had for extended periods of time in your life? In your future, will you be happy that you participated in that activity/job/association?
8. One of Gunther's goals of writing Views From the Hot Seat was to give back to the community of Tuscarawas County that raised him. What ways do we give back to Tusc County? What are ways that we, individually and collectively, can improve the county so that future generations can continue to be impacted in positive ways?

## Exploring Themes

### Standards:

1. W.9-10.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
2. W.9-10.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
3. W.9-10.10 Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.
4. SL.9-10.5 Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.

### 1. Reading Passages Suggestions:

- a. Opinions vs Facts
    - Our Society Does Not Value Education page 16
  - b. Debates
    - Technology: My Fear page 26
  - c. Coaches
    - Coaching: Thoughts and Rambling page 30
  - d. Inspirations
    - Thank You - Gratitude
    - A Tribute: Charlie Huggins page 19
2. As a group, discuss the different topics that Gunther explores in *Views From the Hot Seat*.
  3. Pose the following prompts to students:
    - a. What is a specific theme that really spoke to you as you read *Views From the Hot Seat*? Elaborate on what influence these passages from the text had on you.
    - b. If you could share one passage in this book with a person that is important to you, which passage would you share? With whom would you share it? Why would this passage be important to that person?
  4. Students are to address one of these questions in one of the following ways:
    - a. Write a 5 paragraph essay about one of the two topics.
    - b. Create a 2 minute presentation about the chosen topic to share with the class.
    - c. Create a promotional pamphlet for the book using both of the topics as aspects of why people should read the book.
    - d. Create a 1 minute promotional video for the book using the prompts as a basis for promoting the video.

## Styles of Writing

### Standards:

1. W.9-10.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
2. SL.9-10.1 Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 9–10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
3. SL.9-10.3 Evaluate a speaker's perspective, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, identifying any fallacious reasoning or exaggerated or distorted evidence.
4. SL.9-10.5 Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.

1. Divide students into groups.
2. Each groups receives a different style of writing from the following list.
  - a. Blog
  - b. Social Media
  - c. Essay
  - d. Short Response
  - e. Thank You Letter
  - f. Memoirs
  - g. Autobiography
3. The groups are given 30 minutes to research the components of that writing platform and provide two examples from Gunther's *Views From the Hot Seat* that fit that style of writing or are about that style of writing.
4. As a follow up, share out in one of the following ways:
  - a. Rotate members of the groups to rotate to another group. Share the information out in small groups.
  - b. Students are to create a short presentation with 1-2 discussion questions about the passages from Gunther's books. Present to the class.

## Writer's Workshops Ideas

Standards:

1. W.9-10.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
  - a. a. Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.
  - b. b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
  - c. c. Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole.
  - d. d. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.
  - e. e. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.
2. W.9-10.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
3. W.9-10.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
4. W.9-10.10 Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

### **Timed Sprints**

Set a timer for 15 minutes and let everyone write either on paper or laptop. At the end of the time, count the words and discuss. Repeat the activity again and count the words and discuss. Explain to everyone in 30 minutes they just wrote that many words - imagine what could happen if they wrote 30 minutes everyday for a week? Would they have enough words to start a novella? What would happen if they wrote 30 minutes everyday for a month? Would they have enough words to start a blog?

### **Memoirs**

Give everyone 30 minutes to write a scene about a significant event in their lives and share. Encourage everyone to keep up the practice for a week.

### **Plotting a Murder in an Hour**

Set a timer for an hour and the group will have to come up with murder mystery including characters, setting, plot. Provide sticky notes to arrange on a white board as basic plot points are discussed. An excellent exercise to have writers to plot an entire project before getting to writing it down.

### **World Building**

Discuss the different elements one needs to create a world. Explore different genres, authors, and stories with examples. Bring examples of famous science fiction writings with vivid fantasy worlds. Invite people to write details of a fictional world on paper and share with everyone their worlds.

[How to build a fictional world - Kate Messner](#)

## **Fan Fiction**

Discuss online outlets for fan fiction. Have everyone select their fan show, movie, or book series and create an outline for a new story for that world.

### **Resources**

[TEDEd - The Writer's Workshop](#)

[Writing Workshop](#)

[5 Mini Lessons to Launch Both Reading and Writing Workshops](#)

### **Self Publishing Resources**

[Amazon Self-Publishing](#)

[Barnes & Noble Nook Press](#)

[Editorial Freelancers Association](#)

## **Creating Your Story**

***How to use social media tools to create your story in a meaningful and creative way to connect with family and friends.***

### **Supplies**

- Smart devices connected to a projector system to demonstrate the different social medias
- Bring their own smart devices

### **Activity**

Display the social media of your choice on the projector system and explain the different features and how to use it. Next explain how to use social media to create your own story to share with the world.

### **Variations**

How to use AI (Art Intelligence) programs to create stories and art using words. Include a discussion about the responsibilities of using AI.

### **Resources**

[Instagram](#)

[Snapchat](#)

[TikTok](#)

[Midjourney](#)

[GoblinTools](#)



# Writing Thank You Notes

***The art form of writing a proper thank you note for someone who sparked the passion that drives you.***

Standards:

1. W.9-10.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
2. W.9-10.10 Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

## **Supplies**

- Thank You Cards
- Envelopes
- Pens
- Stamps

## **Activity**

1. Show the teens the proper format to write a thank you
  - a. Format
    - i. Greeting
    - ii. Share your gratitude with specific examples
    - iii. Share personal conversation details
    - iv. Say thank you again
    - v. End with closing
2. Show how to address a letter
  - a. Format
    - i. Name
    - ii. Street Address
    - iii. City, State, Zip Code

## **Resource**

[Gratitude Curriculum](#)

[Deliver Gratitude Day](#)

## **Memory Jar**

***Part of the reason Michael Gunther wrote his book was so his grandkids could have stories about his life. A Memory Jar is a craft program to create something to jot down memories one would like to share with family. Lots of people create them every year for New Years.***

### **Supplies**

- Jars including a lid
- Ribbon
- Stickers
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Hot-Glue Gun

### **Activity**

Decorate the jar with craft supplies provided and write down your first memory of creating the jar at the library. Write the date on your note.

### **Variations**

Rather than creating a Memory Jar - create a Memory Journal or notebook instead. Decorate the front using Mod Podge using prints of pictures of family memories or other stickers or magazines.

## High School Athletes Storytime

*Invite local high school athletes to read for storytime.*

### **Book List Recommendations that are Basketball themed:**

- [\*I Promise by Lebron James\*](#)
- [\*I Have A Superpower by Stephen Curry\*](#)
- [\*The Boy Who Never Gave Up by Anthony Curcio\*](#)
- [\*B is For Baller by James Littlejohn\*](#)
- [\*Salt in His Shoes by Deloris Jordan & Roslyn M. Jordan\*](#)

## Display

### Interactive Display Ideas

#### Who Inspired You in Your Community?

- Name teachers, coaches, leaders etc. that inspired your spark for learning
  - Supplies:
    - Post It Notes
    - Pens
    - Bulletin Board

#### Thank You

- Don't Wait to Say Thank You - Do It Now
  - Create your own thank you note for some special in your life
    - Supplies:
      - Paper
      - Writing Utensils
      - Stickers

One Book One Community 2023  
*Views From The Hot Seat*  
By Michael Gunther

**Essay Contest:** " One Book, One Community Essay writing contest sponsored by Tusc. Co. Writer's Guild.

Theme: Role model: Who was your greatest influencer?

First place price is: \$75, second \$50, third \$ 25. For adults and students.  
Winners announced at the events on November 6, 2023 at Kent State Tusc

### **One Book One Community - Book Clubs Discussions Community List**

#### Continuous Book Club

Tusky Branch - 209 South Main Street, Tuscarawas

September: Views from the Hot Seat by Michael Gunther

Read the monthly book selection then come in and rate the novel 1 to 5 stars

#### Girls' Night Out Book Club

Main Library – 121 Fair Avenue, New Phila

Thursday, September 14 th at 6:00 PM

#### Strasburg Book Discussion

Strasburg Branch – 356 Fifth Street SW, Strasburg

Thursday, September 14 th at 6:30 PM

#### Afternoon Book Discussion

Main Library – 121 Fair Avenue, New Phila

Thursday, September 19 th at 1:30 PM

#### Teen Tuesday at Dover Library

September 26 at 3:00 PM: Tell Your Story

Write or tell a story using ideas from random story generators like the Story-Matic game.

Free snacks will be served!

#### Chautauqua Book Club

Deis Hill Park (Dover City Park)

Thursday, September 28 at 12:00 PM

[After Hours Book Club Meeting and Book Month Block Party](#)

Gnaden Library  
Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 5pm  
**Michael Gunther will be the guest speaker.**

Murder Mystery Book Club  
Sugarcreek Branch – 120 South Broadway, Sugarcreek  
Monday, October 16 th at 11:00 AM

Bolivar Book Club  
Bolivar Branch – 455 West Water Street, Bolivar  
Tuesday, October 17 th at 6:00 PM

Teen Tuesday at Dover Library  
October 24 at 3:00 PM: Tell Your Story 2: The Spooky Sequel  
Challenge yourself to write the scariest stories while enjoying freshly made s'mores.

Claymont Public Library Book Discussion  
Jerry's Restaurant  
103 W McCauley Dr, Uhrichsville.  
Thursday, October 26th at 12:00 p.m. (noon)

**Literacy Connection Day for local high schools**  
**Kent State Tuscarawas**  
**Monday, November 6, 2023 from 10:00-1:30**

**Final Culminating Event**  
**Kent State Tuscarawas**  
**Monday, November 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Author Michael Gunther presenting *Views From the Hot Seat.***