



Six Word Stories

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Background

- Ernest Hemingway
- Challenged to tell a whole story in just six words
- He wrote:
- “For sale: baby shoes, never worn.”

Other examples

- They lived happily ever after...separately.
- Only child, but never the favorite.
- Sometimes pretty birds cannot sing well.
- Why are you in my selfie?
- I still make coffee for two.
- Well, I thought it was funny.
 - (Stephen Colbert)

Easy to introduce

- Once explained, six word stories can be used for many purposes
- First assignment for an online class: introduce yourself.
- What six words tell the story of your life thus far? Or where you find yourself at the moment?



Student responses

- Life is better when you're laughing
- Life is what you make it.
- Moved from self help to grace.

Students were invited to reply with six word responses:

- That is such an awesome story!

Benefits

- Focuses on:
 - Brevity
 - Careful word choice
 - Critical thinking
- Inspires creativity
- Quick to create

Also use for:

- End of class summaries
- Responses to readings and presentations
- Reflections on an issue or discussion
- Providing an example for an abstract concept
- Telling a personal story