Low Stakes Writing

An example of a low stakes writing activity I have students complete in my lectures. In the last five minutes of class I ask them a lecture question that requires them to submit a brief response. I encourage the students to think of their response as a 'tweet' (140 characters or less). This activity helps students reflect on their own learning and give me insights into how they are thinking about the material.

Sample Lecture Questions - Introduction to Judaism

What is something about Judaism you would like to learn this summer?

What is the main lesson of the book of Genesis?

Many significant events are described in the writings of the former prophets. Which do you consider the most important? Why?

What is the role of a prophet in the Tanakh?

Share a writing tip with your fellow classmates.

What can we say about Jewish identity in the Hellenistic period?

Name one connection between apocalypses and other biblical texts we have examined this semester.

Do you have any lingering questions about Rabbinic Judaism? What is still unclear to you?