



What to Teach In Writing Class

A Teaching Plan



What do students need?

1. Formal writing or informal writing
2. Business writing or personal writing
3. Assignment or voluntary writing
4. Writing with format or created writing
5. Other related considerations



What can your students do?

1. At which proficiency level is your students?
2. What is their vocabulary size? Recognition or production?
3. How well can they handle syntactic structures? Monotonous or of great variety?
4. How well can they organize the materials of the writing?
5. Do you evaluate their writing holistically or analytically?



Personalities?

1. Are they active writers or passive writers?
2. Do they prefer a short composition to a long composition?
3. Do they prefer talking to putting things down?
4. Do they read a lot?
5. Do they polish their work after writing?
6. Do they share their works with others?



Processes of writing?

1. Do they have writing blocks?
2. Do they rely much on Chinese-English translation in producing English writing?
3. Do they follow a certain writing process?
4. Do they use brain-storming?
5. Do they use outlines?
6. Do they need guidelines during the process of writing?



Expected achievement

1. Do they expect a perfect piece of work?
2. Do they have room for errors, mistakes, and so on?
3. Do they write for good grades?
4. Will they be evaluated strictly or leniently?
5. Will their work be scored or be rated?
6. Will their work be given comments instead?
7. Does their writing anxiety come from high expectation or from other factors?



What can we teach our students?

1. Teach one thing at a time?
2. Teach many things at a time?
3. Provide models and asking them to imitate?
4. Provide principles and asking them to apply?
5. Let them do their own writing without interruption?
6. Some kind of guided writing?
7. Free writing?



How do you evaluate their writing?

1. Evaluate everything?
2. Evaluate the “focus” you taught?
3. Giving comments instead of rating them?
4. Underline the problems instead of correcting them?
5. Conference with the students?
6. Do holistic scoring?
7. No evaluating?



Design your own teaching plan

There are many different approaches to teaching English. However, most of these plans tend to follow this standard lesson plan format.

1. Warm-up
2. Presentation
3. Controlled practice
4. Free practice
5. Feedback



Helpful references

Six possible mistakes in making a teaching plan

<http://www.adprima.com/mistakes.htm>

Example

<http://www.huntington.edu/education/lessonplanning/Plans.html>