

### Teacher Takeaways: Practical ideas for classroom teaching

A British Council series of online events in partnership with the China English Teacher Professional Teachers Association (ETA)

16th September to 14th October 2021

www.britishcouncil.org

### **Welcome to Teacher Takeaways**

#### Session #4

Using product and process approaches to teach writing effectively

#### Housekeeping:

- No microphones or video
- Please leave comments in the chat and questions in the Q and A box.
- We will try and leave 10 15 minutes at the end to cover questions



#### Jamie Zhang



Jamie Zhang, China ELT expert. She is the current CEO of Shenzhen Gaoxian Education and Consulting Co. Ltd and founder of the E-Trend teacher training brand. Jamie has also acted as an academic consultant for the British Council, Pearson Education Group Asia, and the New Oriental Education and Technology Group. She is a member of the expert panel for the China National Teacher Training Program (NTTP) and is Chair for the national panel of judges of the "Star of Outlook" talent show. She was also an expert judge for the Sina.com Star Teacher competition national final.

Jamie was previously an academic manager for Cambridge Assessment China, and holds both a Cambridge DELTA diploma and an MBA. She has trained teachers at all levels in both China and abroad. 3

# **Davide Guarini Gilmartin**

- Teacher of English in Viet Nam since 1999
- British Council Viet Nam since 2003
- Teacher educator on Viet Nam MOET and DOET projects since 2007
- Teacher educator on teacher development projects in China, Indonesia, Thailand, Peru since 2011
- Academic Manager, English for Education Systems (EES) Viet Nam since 2020

East Asia



Image: British Council

Teachers from Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam participated in an ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) teacher webinar series to discuss teacher and learner motivation and promote the latest Teaching Pathways massive open online course (MOOC) from Teaching English – How to motivate learners.



Teacher Takeaways: Practical ideas for classroom teaching

# Product and Process Writing 14 October 2021

Davide Guarini Gilmartin, English for Education Systems (EES)

www.britishcouncil.org

### **Learning outcomes**

By the end of today's session we will address the following questions:

- What are the challenges?
- Why do we write?
- Why do students write?
- What is a product approach?
- What is a process approach?
- What are the differences? Which to use?



# What have we learned in the series so far?

When assessing any activities, materials or techniques, remember...

• Adapt? Adopt? Reject?

#### **Creative thinking**

- Bloom's Taxonomy HOTs & LOTs
- 21C skills critical & creative thinking link to writing
- E.g. brainstorming

#### KWL

<u>K</u> now about thinking skills	<u>W</u> ant to Know	<u>L</u> earned
Fill in this column	and this column	

# What have we learned in the series so far?

When assessing any activities, materials or techniques, remember...

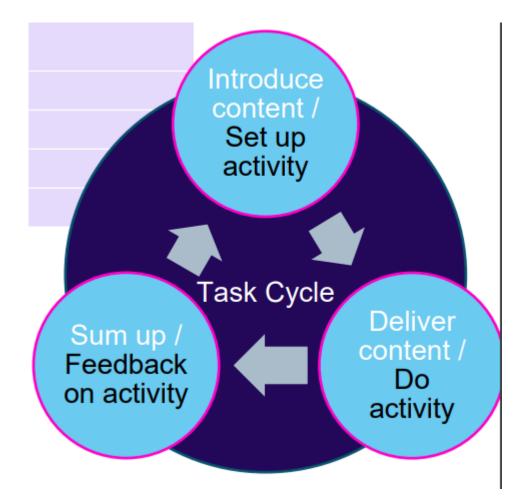
• Adapt? Adopt? Reject?

#### Lesson objectives, structure, task design

- Learner autonomy
- Task cycle
- SMART lesson objectives

#### Listening

• Stages of listening



# What are the challenges of teaching writing?

- difficult to develop
- time-consuming
- supposedly transferable L1 skill
- irrelevant to needs of Ss (but texts, blogs, emails?)
- glorified grammar practice (our fault),
- difficult to assess and assessment often ineffectual.

Writing not easily mastered in L1, let alone L2. This is a <u>CHALLENGE</u> not a disadvantage.



# Do you recognize this writing lesson?

The teacher sets a writing topic (and a time limit).

The students write (alone, in silence).

The teacher takes in the students written work and marks it.

- How do the students feel?
- How do the students develop their writing skills?
- How does the teacher feel?

"In school, we just write...not to anyone...we just give information. Not to someone...we just write information down on paper" Robert (15)

# Why do we write? We write to be read.

What do we need to consider when writing?

- Audience
- Purpose
- Content
- Action What do I want the reader to do after reading my writing



# What do good writers do?

Identify why they are writing

Identify who they are writing for

Gather material & ideas (example texts, listing, note-taking, brainstorming, research)

#### Plan

Write a draft

Read draft critically, invite peer feedback

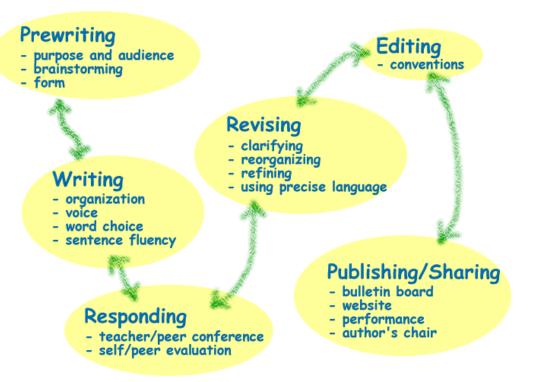
Revise

Further draft(s) + final version

#### Proofing

(Anne Raimes: Techniques in Teaching Writing OUP 1983)

# The Writing Process



How could you incorporate these elements of the writing process into your lesson planning? What impact could it have on your learners?

### Why do students learn to write?

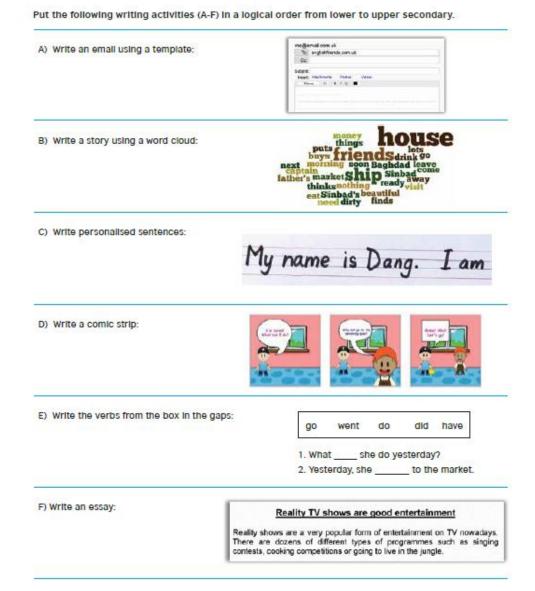
- Ss need it for educational purposes, prepare for tests and exams
- It is perhaps the most accurate measure of competence
- YLs are doing it more than ever email, messenger, blogs, wikis, etc.
- It does help to consolidate structure
- It can be both pleasurable and rewarding, esp. for certain types of learner (the shyer, introverted)



# **Stages of writing**

- Letter
- Word
- Sentence
- Paragraph
- Text

Think about different types of writing practice and progression from primary to secondary.



What do students need to know before writing? Info to be Outcome included Purpose Reader Register Time Length Audience Genre conventions **Content Structure** 



# What is a product approach?

Stage 1 – analyse a model text (an example product)

Stage 2 – controlled practice of targeted language structure(s)

Stage 3 – organize ideas

Stage 4 – write the product (based on stages above, to demonstrate skills, structures and vocab to produce



# What is a product approach?

https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/skills/writing/beginner-a1-writing/introducing-yourself-email

katie97@dsmail.com
To: englishfriends.com.uk
Cc:
Subject: Hi!
Insert: Attachments Photos Videos
Tahoma 10 B I U
Hi! How are you?
My name's Katie and I'm 12 years old. I'm from Valletta in Malta. I speak Maltese (the language in Malta) and English. I like swimming, playing football and listening to music. I've got a pet dog, Max.
Do you want to be my friend? Please write soon.
Best wishes
Katie
Send Save Cancel
v.britishcouncil.org

WW

#### Top Tips for writing

- 1. Use an exclamation mark (!) at the end of an exclamation or after surprising information.
- 2. Use a capital letter to start a sentence.
- 3. Use a comma (,) in a list.
- 4. Use a full stop (.) to end a sentence.
- 5. Use a question mark (?) at the end of a question.

BRITISH
 COUNCIL
 Writing sk

Learn**English** Teens

Writing skills practice: Introducing yourself by email - writing practice

Write an email to introduce yourself. Think about these questions:

What's your name? How old are you? Where are you from? What language(s) do you speak? What do you like doing? Do you have a pet?

10:	englishfrie	nds	S.C	om.	uk	
Cc:						
ubject:						
-	Attachments		Ph	otos		Videos
Insert:						

# What is a product approach?

https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/skills/writing/intermediate-b1-writing/opinion-essay

#### An opinion essay

#### Are video games a good way to keep fit?

Nowadays, many teenagers have got video consoles at home and they often like playing active video games. These are good for you for a number of reasons.

First of all, I think that active video games are a good way to keep fit. There are lots of different types of exercise you can do such as basketball, water-skiing and dance and, what's more, you can play them in the comfort of your own home. In my opinion, these games are fun and interactive because you can play them with friends and, if you play online, you don't need to be in the same place as your friend to play.

In addition, you can play them whenever you want. Some people think that it's better to do exercise outside in the fresh air. Although this is true, it's actually difficult to play outside when it's raining or very hot so video games are a good alternative.

To sum up, I believe that video games are a fun and social way to keep fit. I think they are a good option when you can't play outside and they might encourage people to do more exercise.

#### Top Tips for writing

- 1. Write your essay in clear paragraphs. Use phrases like *First of all, In addition* and *To sum up* to start each paragraph.
- Express your own opinion using I think, In my opinion or I believe. Mention other viewpoints with phrases like Some people think and say whether you agree or disagree with them.

#### BRITISH COUNCIL

#### Learn**English** Teens

Writing skills practice: An opinion essay - writing practice

Look at the exam question and write the essay.

#### Exam question

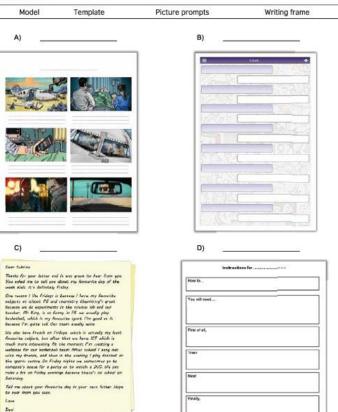
Your teacher has asked you to write an opinion essay with the title 'Are video games a good way to keep fit?'

Write the essay below and give your opinion.

### **Resources for guided writing**

I think that (name of book or story) shows us that (main idea)				
I(liked / didn't like) _ because	this book			
Overall, I feel that worth / not worth reading be	(name of book or story) is cause			
I found it interesting that				
The part of was	(name of book or story) I liked best			
	because			
	(write why).			

Work in pairs. Look at the four resources for guided writing practice. Write the names of the resources using words from the box. Have you used these resources with secondary students? Tell you partner.



Lave Der

www.britishcouncil.org

# What is a process approach?

**Stage 1 – brainstorm to generate ideas** 

Stage 2 – extend ideas > notes

Stage 3 – organise ideas > structure (mind map, linear, etc.)

Stage 4 – write first draft (often in groups)

Stage 5 – exchange drafts (write to be read) and respond as readers

Stage 6 – return drafts and improve based on feedback

Stage 7 – write final draft (poss. individual)

Stage 8 – exchange writing, read each other's work, respond or reply



# What do good writers do?

Identify why they are writing

Identify who they are writing for

Gather material & ideas (example texts, listing, note-taking, brainstorming, research)

#### Plan

Write a draft

Read draft critically, invite peer feedback

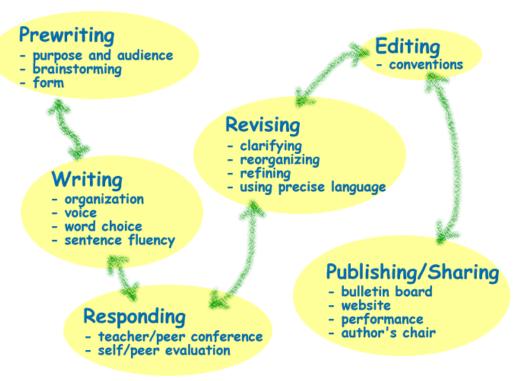
Revise

Further draft(s) + final version

#### Proofing

(Anne Raimes: Techniques in Teaching Writing OUP 1983)

# The Writing Process



How could you incorporate these elements of the writing process into your lesson planning? What impact could it have on your learners?

### Why should teachers be interested in a process approach?

*'Focusing on language errors improves neither grammatical accuracy nor writing fluency'* 

White and Arntd, *Process Writing* (Longman 1991)

- Move away from being a marker to a reader
- Respond to the *content* of student writing, more than the *form*
- Encourage students to think more about *audience* and *purpose*
- Remind students that what they
  write can be revised

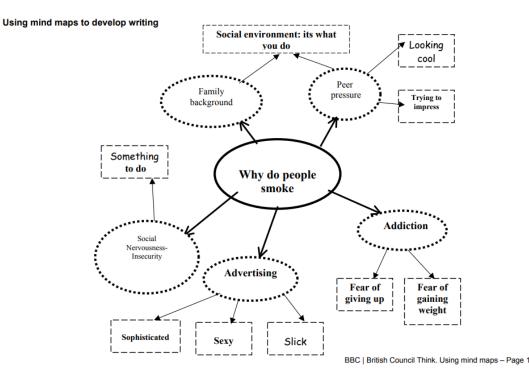
# What is a process approach? 1/3 Pre-writing

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/using-mind-maps-develop-writing

Stimulate students' creativity – get them thinking how to approach a writing topic.

Key - Flow of ideas.

- Brainstorming
- Planning
- Generating ideas
- Questioning
- Discussion and debate

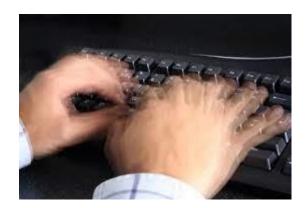


# What is a process approach? 2/3 Focusing ideas

Students write without too much attention to accuracy or organization.

Key - Meaning and content.

- Fast writing
- Group compositions
- Changing viewpoints
- Varying form



# What is a process approach? 3/3 Structuring and editing

Adapting the writing for the readers. Getting ready to 'publish'.

Key – Focus on form and accuracy.

- Ordering
- Self-editing
- Peer editing
- Proofreading



### What are the differences? A summary

1

- Process approach similar to TBL
- Students given more freedom
- Still focus on the end-product
- Aim to achieve the best possible product
- Outcome of the writing (the endproduct) is NOT preconceived

THE PRODUCT APPROACH	THE PROCESS APPROACH
The starting point is often the analysis of a model text.	A model text may be introduced after Ss have first written something of their own.
The focus is on what writers produce.	The focus is on what writers do.
A strong focus on writing at sentence level.	The relationship between sentences is stressed.
Much of the writing process is left to Ss.	Each stage of the writing process is trained by the teacher through tasks.
Writing is taught as a separate skill.	Writing is integrated with other skills.
Writing is usually done outside class.	Writing is done in the class.
Writing is done alone.	Writing is a collaborative process.
Work is evaluated by the teacher.	Work is evaluated and re-evaluated by writers themselves, peers and the teacher.
The teacher acts as a 'judge'.	The teacher acts as a reader and collaborator.

# Which approach to use?

#### Depends on...

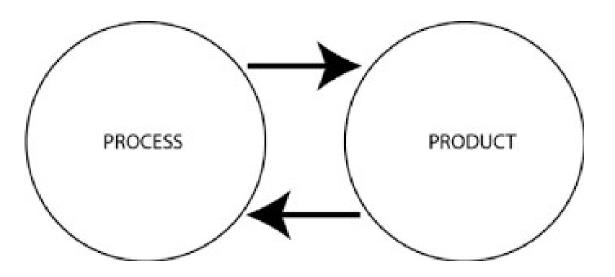
- Teacher
- Students
- Genre
- Time

Product-driven approach...

- Genres Formal texts (letters, emails)
- Benefits focus on layout, style, organisation, grammar

Process-driven approach...

- Genres discursive essays, narratives
- Benefits focus on brainstorming ideas, collaboration, exchanging texts, writing for a reader)



### What about a mixed approach?

Product and process approaches are complementary not incompatible.

- Product approach Introduce more collaboration at stages and also exchange drafts so that students read each others' work, develop that awareness of 'writing to be read'
- Process approach After first drafts, introduce model texts for comparison





# Setting learning outcomes for writing

#### **Traditional outcome**

Write a paragraph about mobile phones (50 words)

#### **SMART outcome**

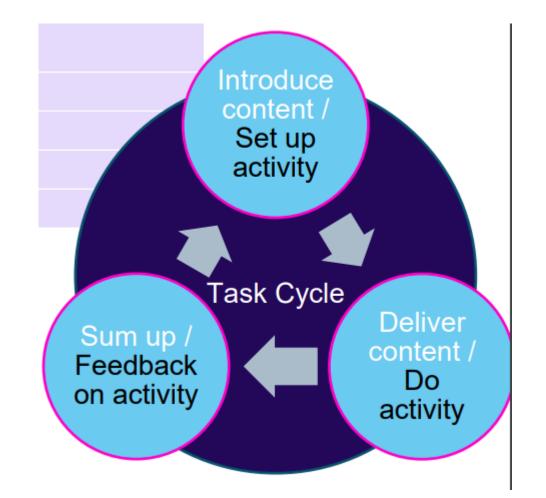
Write an email to a friend telling them what you like and don't like about using mobile phones.

#### **Planning lesson stages – use the task cycle**

Set up – if product, use a model text. If process, generate interest in the topic, brainstorm ideas, etc.

Do – if product, this is likely to be linear. If process, there are more likely to be a number of cyclical stages.

Feedback – not just teacher, not just grammar correction. Write to be read. Encourage reading for content, not just to correct grammar.



# **Product and process writing: A comparison**

#### Vanessa Steele

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/ar ticle/product-process-writing-acomparison

#### Three key takeaways:

- There's no right/best approach
- The approach you choose depends on your students, their needs, the text genre and you
- Don't be afraid to mix the two.

Help Log in Sign up Newsletter		LearnEnglish Kids 🖗	LearnEnglish 🖗	LearnEnglish Teens 🖗
			Tead	ching <b>English</b>
Professional development Publications	Teaching resources News and events	Training		٩

Home » Knowing the subject » Articles

#### Product and process writing: A comparison

#### A - Z of Content

ACDEFGHIKLMNP RSTUVWY

There are several ways to approach writing in the classroom. It should be said at the beginning that there is not necessarily any *'right'* or *'best'* way to teach writing skills.



The best practice in any situation will depend on the type of student, the text type being studied, the school system and many other factors. Thus, this article cannot prescribe a system for the teaching of writing that is optimal for all teaching situations. Rather, I hope to describe and contrast two popular, yet very different, approaches and examine how both can be used in the classroom.

Task-based approach	
n introduction to using visualisation	
nalysing Language	
oproaches to process writing	
udio and text	
LIL: A lesson framework	
ollocation with advanced levels 1 - not	
ntirelyproper/appropriate/good?	
omplete poetry resuscitation	
oncordancers in ELT	
onnected speech	
1 of 12	►
opular	
A.S Hornby Educational Trust scholarships	
Peacemakers and peace-breakers	
Teaching pathways: How to motivate learners	

4 Education exchange: Climate change and girls' education

# **Approaches to process writing**

#### **Graham Stanley**

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/ar ticle/approaches-process-writing

Three key takeaways:

- Changing roles of teachers and students
- Three key stages (pre-writing, focusing ideas, structuring and editing)
- It takes time and effort the importance of feedback



Home » Knowing the subject » Articles

#### Approaches to process writing

What makes an effective piece of writing? Good writers plan and revise, rearrange and delete text, re-reading and producing multiple drafts before they produce their finished document. This is what a process writing approach is about.



What is process writing?

Why should teachers be interested in a process approach to writing?

The changing roles of teacher and students

#### A - Z of Content

A C D E F G H I K L M N P R S T U V W Y

#### A Task-based approach An introduction to using visualisation Analysing Language Approaches to process writing

- Audio and text CLIL: A lesson framework Collocation with advanced levels 1 - not entirely...proper/appropriate/good? Complete poetry resuscitation Concordancers in ELT Connected speech 1 of 12

- Popular
- 1 A.S Hornby Educational Trust scholarships
- 2 Peacemakers and peace-breakers
- ${\mathcal J}$  Teaching pathways: How to motivate learners
- 4 Education exchange: Climate change and girls' education

# **Planning a writing lesson**

#### **Catherine Morley**

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/ar ticle/planning-a-writing-lesson

Three key takeaways:

- What is genre?
- Stages to consider
- The value of peer evaluation



#### What are your key takeaways at the end of today?

#### **KWL** - Takeaway

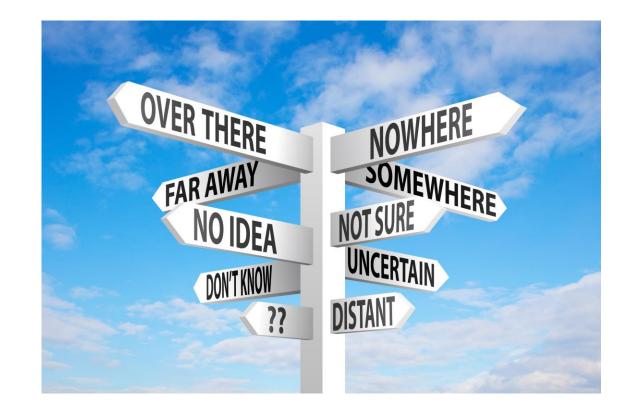
Know about thinking skills	Want to Know	Learned
		now fill in this column.

Consider the difference between column 2 and Column 3.

### **Learning outcomes**

By the end of today's session we will address the following questions:

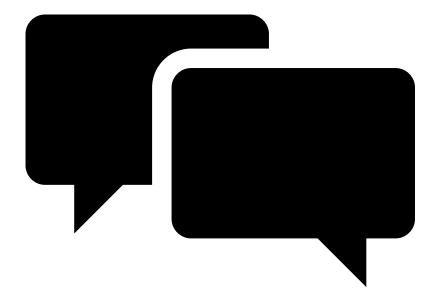
- What are the challenges?
- Why do we write?
- Why do students write?
- What is a product approach?
- What is a process approach?
- What are the differences? Which to use?



### Discussion

#### **Questions to think about**

- What was your key takeaway from today's session?
- Is there anything you want to change (adapt, adopt, reject) as a result of today's session?





# Now, let's take some questions from the Q and A.

?

You can also use the chat box to leave your comments and share ideas!







# **Any questions?**

#### Certificates, recordings and downloads will also be made available here within 7 days!

