

Community and Process: Building Engaging Writing Lessons

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Freewriting

- Rule No. 1: Write for 5 minutes without stopping.
- Rule No. 2: Don't make corrections.
- Rule No. 3: Use the Russian word if you can't think of the English word.
- Rule No. 4: Write anything, but try to write about our topic.

The Topic

- What do you remember about your very first day as an English teacher?

Share Your Freewriting

- Find two or three neighbors
- Form a group
- Read your Freewriting aloud to them
- Is there experience different from yours? Or is it similar?

Write an Essay (really!)

- Write the following on a sheet of paper:
 - One thing I always try to do in the classroom is...
 - One thing I always try to avoid in the classroom is...
- Share your writing with your groupmates.
- Turn them into a two-paragraph essay.
- Share them with everyone

Write Down a Teaching Principle

- On a new sheet of paper, write down one of your **Teaching Principles**.
 - This is something that influences your approach to teaching.

**For example: “One of my teaching principles is to always include activities that encourage creative language use.”*

Explain Your Principle

- Imagine someone who is not a teacher reads your **Teaching Principle**.
 - Describe it in one or two sentences without using examples.
 - Write your description immediately after your first sentence.

Ask for Help from a Neighbor

- Choose one neighbor to trade papers with.
- Read your partner's writing very closely.
- How can your partner's description be improved? Give advice.
- Work together to think of at least one classroom activity that would be a good example of each of your **Teaching Principles**.

Write an Example of Your Principle

- Think of a specific example from your classroom experience in which you use your **Teaching Principle**.
 - Write it after your description in two or three sentences

What Have We Done?

- Spoken authentic English with each other
- Written several texts (informal and formal)
- Explored writing as a process
- Integrated skills
- Talked more than the teacher did
- Generated our own content
- Fostered a community of learners who depend on themselves and each other
- Had fun!

Thank You!

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