

THE USE OF DIGITAL MEDIA IN DEVELOPING STUDENTS' ENGLISH ACADEMIC WRITING SKILLS

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Annotation: This article mainly discusses the importance of English language instruction in the classroom while teaching academic writing. Moreover, the role of digital resources in developing students' academic writing skills and methods for implementing in teaching it as well.

Key words: teaching, digital media, academic writing skills, programs, appropriate instructions.

Since the dawn of the globalization, English has already become the most widely spread language throughout the world. It is considered the language of science, aviation, computers, diplomacy and tourism as well. Knowing English increases the chances of getting job in a multinational company within your home country or finding it abroad. According to the nowadays statistics, almost 1 billion people are learning English and they attempt to increase its main skills too.

One of the most significant skills of this language is writing, which is considered the highest form of learning. A widely held opinion is that students who lack fluency in academic writing will face significant barriers to success. Students have to write various essays and papers in their school and college lives. These papers and essays are usually written in the academic writing style. Since students are young, they may find it boring and difficult to write papers and essays in such a formal style. In some Asian countries, for example, the well-written English paper is the key to passing from one grade level to the next as well as passing rigorous college entrance exams.

Academic writing refers to writing that is aimed at aiding the readers' understanding of a particular topic. Academic writing provides evidence for any claims that are made in the content. It is also a very formal and structured style of writing. However, it is demanded on students not only to learn academic writing competence, but also digital media too which has already become human beings' inseparable part of their life. In order to know the role of digital resources in developing students' academic writing skills, a survey of 2,462 Advanced Placement (AP) and National Writing Project (NWP) teachers finds that digital technologies are shaping student writing in myriad ways and have also become helpful tools for teaching writing to middle and high school students. These teachers see the internet and digital technologies such as social networking sites, cell phones and texting, generally facilitating teens' personal expression and creativity, broadening the audience for their

written material, and encouraging teens to write more often in more formats than may have been the case in prior generations. At the same time, they describe the unique challenges of teaching writing in the digital age, including the “creep” of informal style into formal writing assignments and the need to better educate students about issues such as plagiarism and fair use.

However, teaching academic writing to young learners is not a simple process and for implementing it there are a variety of methods that can be used to impart writing competence. The most important thing is to find a method that works best for the individual student. Some students may prefer a more traditional approach, while others may benefit from a more creative approach.

One common method of teaching writing skills is to have the student keep a journal. This can be done either in class or at home. The journal can be about any topic the student chooses, and can be used as a way to explore their thoughts and feelings. The journal can also be used as a way to practice writing on a regular basis.

Another popular method is to have the student write letters to family and friends. This gives them practice in writing for a real audience, and helps them to develop their own style. It can also be a great way to keep in touch with loved ones who live far away.

In addition, there are also many software programs available that can help students learn to write better. These programs often provide step-by-step instructions, and give the student immediate feedback on their progress. They can be used either at home or in the classroom, and can be customized to fit the needs of each individual student. For example, by means of program Google.doc, students have a chance to share their writing materials with their teachers or their classmates, in order to get feedback. At the same time, they can give it or vice versa. Therefore, students should be aware of proper strategies of academic writing skill which have been taught by their teachers. However, not all students are good at it. There are plenty of reasons why a student would not be very good at academic writing, but that does not mean that nothing can be done about it. Here some strategies are provided for students to improve their academic writing skills.

1. Practice Writing in Formal Tones

In academic writing, students have to write in a formal and objective tone. It is wrong to write in an emotional or biased tone. Academic writing demands that all the points and arguments made in the work should be backed by evidence and not personal opinions. Of course, if their opinions are based on empirical data then it is fine to include them.

2. Keep Research Notes Handy

Academic writing entails that any claims presented in the paper or essay need to be proven using data. So, students can't just say something and move on, they have to provide evidence that what they have said (written) is true. Naturally, students cannot just prove anything on their own. They will need to read lots of research papers related to their topic and use their findings to support their own.

The easiest method to counter this problem is to keep notes of all their research. Write down the main points of each paper in a notebook and record any page numbers that have data they may need to refer to.

3. Check Work for Plagiarism

Students are one of the foremost abusers of plagiarism. This is mainly due to the fact that they either don't know or understand why plagiarism is bad. However, colleges and universities in particular are very strict about plagiarism.

In academic writing committing plagiarism is particularly bad as it can get them blacklisted from any scientific journal. Hence destroying a great career path.

4. Follow a Proper Format

Since academic writing is a very formal affair, it makes sense that it would also have rigid formatting requirements.

The formats required by most journals are available online. Students should practice writing their content in different formats and become comfortable with them. That way in the future if they ever have to convert their paper from one format to another, they won't have any trouble.

5. Grammar Check

Academic writing is very rigid when it comes to grammar. There is very little room for tolerating grammatical mistakes. Since academic writing is supposed to be read by other people, it should have good readability.

To sum up, academic writing is an important field. Students have to use academic writing throughout their school and college lives. It is important for them to improve their writing skills so that they get good grades and get their works published. To improve their writing skills, they can follow the suggestions provided in this article. Obviously, the results would depend on how much they practice these recommendations.

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