



The influence of low stakes writing activities on students' writing skills.

Agenda

- 1 The problem and purpose
- 2 Low stakes writing
- 3 Methods and findings
- 4 Conclusion
- 5 Further practice

The problem & purpose

- Poor writing among the 7th grade students: word order, subject verb agreement, use of tenses, articles, spelling, misuse of vocabulary (limited vocabulary);
- To explore to what extent the low stakes writing (5 minutes writing/not formally assessed) will improve students' writing skills;

Low stakes writing

Frequent, informal assignments that make students spend time regularly reflecting in written language on what they are learning from discussions, readings, lectures, and their own thinking (Elbow, 1997).



Benefits of low stakes writing for students

(Brinker, 2018; Elbow, 1997):

- to stay involved in the course;
- to improve students' high stakes writing;
- to help students be active;
- to find their own language for the issues of the course;
- to be more adventuresome and questioning;
- to learn to write with full attention to their thinking;
- to learn meta-cognitive thinking;
- to learn to talk to themselves;
- **Benefits of low stakes writing for teachers:**
 - to help commenting;
 - to assess students' progress;

The psychological benefits of low stakes writing

- It's relaxing
- It's good practice
- It exercises your creative muscles
- You learn to trust yourself
- It builds confidence
- It drives inspiration
- It helps excavate emotional themes and barriers
- It promotes process and not outcome

<https://www.writerscookbook.com/the-psychological-benefits-of-free-writing/>
<https://writingcooperative.com/the-benefits-of-free-writing-9d7a5940e34>

Low stakes (5 minute) writing activities:

- My plan for this weekend
- Continue this sentence: I am ...
- My school
- My favourite pet
- Write about Luke
- Highlights of the day
- The picture of Scrooge and his girlfriend
- Highlights of the year
- Resolutions for the year
- My dream place
- Highlights of the morning
- The picture of Sponge Bob
- I enjoy writing ...
- How would you end the story "Three little pigs"
- Amelia Bedelia – write a paragraph using words
- Pick a place you've never been before
- Freewriting
- The setting of the book "Dinosaurs before dark"
- What have you learnt from the book?
- Your opinion about the book.

picture

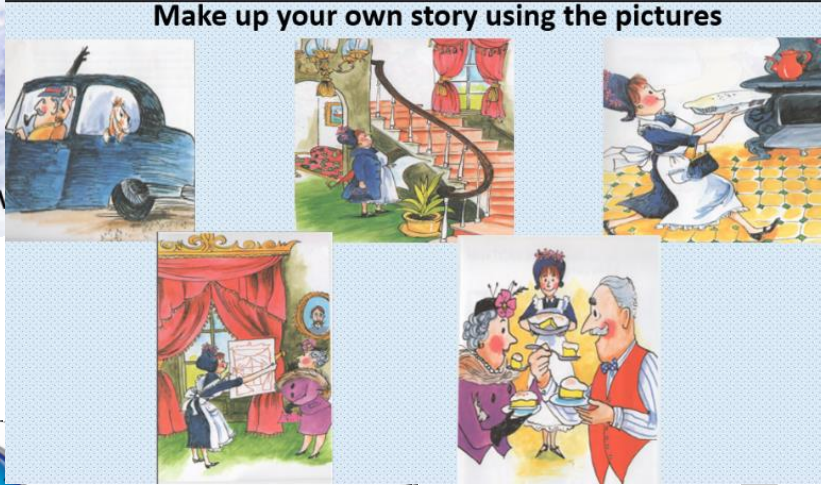
A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Stave 4



What

What is the setting of a story?



Make up your own story using the pictures



Writing time



Writing time



Writing time



If you had to give your name or a title...
"The Champion of..."
Champion would you

My New School.
(my first impression, feelings and worries)



Methods & findings

- Questionnaire;
- Students' copybooks for 5 minute writing;
- Analysis of summative writing results before and after intervention;

- 7th grade students (40 students);

Result of the questionnaire

While I am doing 5 minute writing.....

I think 5 minute writing activity ...

	1 disagree	2 somewhat agree	3 totally agree
1. increased my confidence in writing			
2. improved <u>critical thinking</u>			
3. developed <u>self-reflection</u>			
4. helped to be inspired in writing			
5. helped express my opinion			
6. helped to focus my attention			

Other benefits

While I am doing 5 minute writing, ...

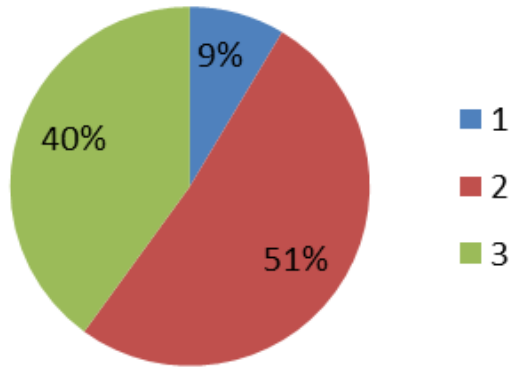
- I feel happy
- I remember the words that we learnt
- I can tell my opinion better than in the past ...
- I started my own diary
- I learn new words
- I am relaxing
- It helps me to be better in writing
- I have fun & my mood improves
- I train my writing skills
- I can practice grammar

While I am doing 5 minute writing, ...

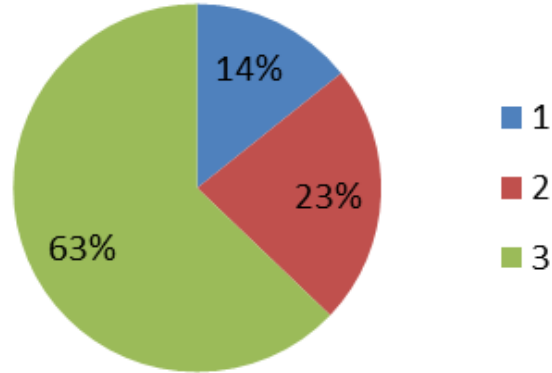
- I don't know what to write about a topic and spend 4 minutes to think about my ideas
- I feel neutral (don't have bad or good opinion)... I don't want to write about my life or my day. I want to use my imagination.
- I think very long and often I can't write anything

Students' responses for each statement in percentage

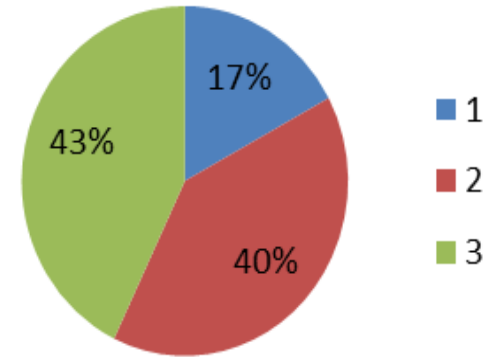
increased my confidence in writing



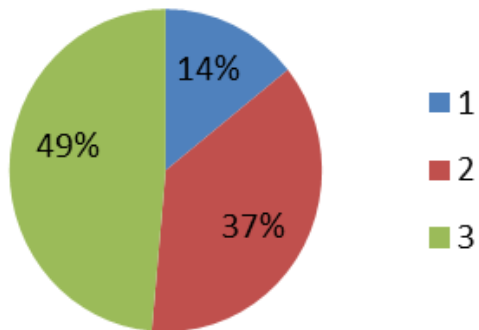
Improved critical thinking



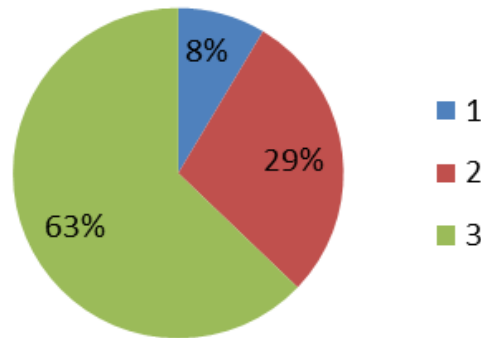
developed self-reflection



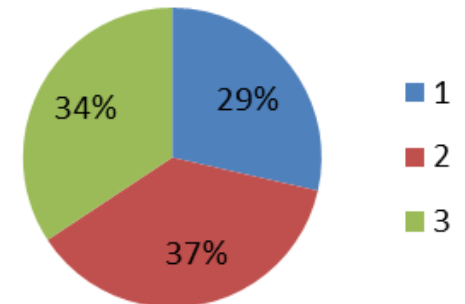
helped to be inspired in writing



helped to express my opinion



helped to focus my attention



5 minute writing activity ...

- helped me to be creative
- Improved grammar
- Improved my English writing
- Helped to revise for new words
- Makes me think about something
- Helped to remember the little events that I forget

The 6th of September

1 ^{ww} Do to ^{sp} school

2 ^{ww} Do to club (b) dom byra. Not Do, but Go!

3 ^{ww} Do to club 100 book

4 ^{ww} Do to club ^{sp} dance

5 ^{ww} Do to home

6 ^{ww} Do to ^{sp} sleep

The 11th of September

I am a student I am get up at 7 o'clock

I am a woman I am sitting, sitting

I am a people. My name is Aigerim.

(M)

The 18th of September

I choose a kitten. Because he little and fluffy. He (de) be to raise the mood.

Behind ^{he} (it) is necessary to clean. (But (it's) ~~he's~~ a (l) small th) But it's a small things.

15 02 2019

I don't know what to write. I have no idea what to write about. Oh I can write about time. Time.... what we know about it. This is what it is not possible to contradict. Time we are ~~to~~ ruthely open.

Your writing

21 02 2019

The story happens in the woods. Jack and Annie ~~been~~^{were} in Frog Creek Pennsylvania. They saw tree house.

01 03 2019

I think this book very interesting, and because this book about pretend stuff. This book has ~~more~~^{much} information about dinosaur. for example „This flying reptile lived in the Cretaceous Period. It vanished 65 million years ago with the dinosaurs" each other. With this book I learn much word. and or

My school.

My school name is MIS. School
very very big and long. School
easy lost. School very very very
good.

writing

1. Puppy puppy is little and charming.

I go want with puppy. Puppy
name is Max. He is like playing

They very very smart and beautiful.
They I'm ^{training} draw puppy.

He no smile. He given to laugh.
He smart. He very rich.

Now would you end the story
"3 little pig"?

Wolf climbed in the house with
window. Then he saw three
little pig. He was very angry.
But they were very strong.
And won Wolf. Then they gave
Wolf to prison.

folks saw ground mountain, And
they come on the mountain,
but, this mountain grand, because
is this they come on grand
mountain ten days. ~~the~~ on
the mountain ~~very~~ fast. they
colours clothes.

My animal

I want what I have puppy. Because puppy very funny and cute. I can play game with puppy. Puppy very good animal for all. I will give to he food. I will love him. If I train him, he can will champion be.

Resolutions for the new year

1. good learn ?
2. kill of laziness laziness
3. Find many friends

Life story in 5 sentences.

I born in Abai, in 2006. My childhood was very funny thanks to my sisters. Then for me school was very interesting. Now I learning in MIS.

04.02.19.

I want to visit Korea, Because, in Seoul live my idols and for me Korea is very good country. I want to visit shops in Korea and, because in Korea beautiful weather.

15.02.19.

Tomorrow is my birthday. My friends want make surprise to me. But my family will not go to me. It is very bad. I hope what all will be good. Congratulations!
Good job! Keep up!

Students improved ...

- **Word order: subject verb agreement**
- **Correct use of tenses**
- **Spelling**
- **Vocabulary**
- **Confidence in writing**
- **Articles**

Conclusion

- Most students are positive about low stakes writing;
- The 74% of the students showed a slight improvement in writing;
- The low stakes writing ...
 - increased students' confidence in writing
 - helped to express their opinion
 - developed self-reflection

Further practice

- Including topics/questions/tasks related to the content;
- Choosing more specific topics;
- Checking their copybooks for creative writing and providing feedback regularly;
- Giving more positive feedback;
- Suggesting 5 minute writing to other subjects;

References:

- Elbow, P. (1997). *High stakes and low stakes in assigning and responding to writing*. San Francisco, the USA: Jossey-Bass.
- Brinker, S. (2018). Using low stakes writing as a teaching strategy.

References:

- 20 creative writing prompts that you can do in 10 minutes <http://blog.ed.ted.com/2015/11/17/21-fun-things-to-write-about-in-10-minutes-or-less/>
- 5 minutes writing <https://www.pinterest.com/roberl1/5-minute-writing/?lp=true>
- Writing bugs https://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/archives/writing_bugs.shtml

- <https://www.time4writing.com/5-minute-daily-writing-exercises-for-busy-families/>