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After all, they're working in a second language that might not even share the same writing system as their own. Should parents be allowed to arrange marriages for their children? Now that you know what to look for in a good writing sample, here are some ideas to help your students get started. If your students are describing a person, have them start at their head and move down to their feet, or vice versa. Naturally, if you've taught them any specific vocabulary words for a particular writing prompt. What did they do to gain your respect and admiration? And what better way to express one's opinions than with a written argument? If the answer is yes, their writing lacks coherence and they need to work on how they transition. Close your eyes. Tell the story of her past. Here are some writing prompts to get your students expressing themselves with stories. way to write opinions Opinions are everywhere. (Note: Your students need to use the conditional form for this narrative. Process writing prompts What's your favorite food from your home country? Should college students be allowed to choose their own courses or study from a set list of required courses? (For younger students, you can ask the question, "How did your parents meet each other?") When did you first think about traveling overseas to study English? What steps must you follow? With a solid setting, character and conflict, anyone can come up with a gripping and exciting story—even your students. Grammar Look for correct use of grammar appropriate to students' proficiency levels. Great for boosting the imagination, action words help the reader visualize the story while reading. Think about a time you were scared. Tune in to what you can hear, smell and feel. But for many ESL students, the dreaded blank page isn't just intimidating—it's immobilizing. She's in a ghost town. Describe where you were and what frightened you. Here are some prompts to help your students vocalize their opinions. Whereas advanced students should be able to use a broader spectrum of transition words. Start a story with the following phrase: It was the worst mistake he'd ever made. Writing comics is also a great way to give students writing practice without requiring imagination to go along with it. Describe what you see. How did you meet your significant other? How does an acorn grow into a tree? Use the following scene for inspiration: She'd never seen an animal like this before, but it seems to be friendly. If so, tell the story of how you got it. Regardless of whether the story is being told in past or present tense, students must learn to keep the verb tense is consistent throughout the story without switching from past to present, or vice versa, unless talking about two different points in time. What conflict will that person face? 4. Fun and creative story prompts A young boy sees what appears to be a UFO land outside his home late one Tuesday night. Each person must write a story incorporating the setting, character and object they received. What are the stages of the water cycle? Should students be required to clean their schools? You hang over the edge of the boat waiting for the current wave of nausea to pass. The danger with this approach is that writers tend to veer off topic. Here's how. Then, tell the story of what happens next. Ever find yourself staring at a blank page for extended periods of time? From social media posts to commentary on news programs, we're constantly exposed to other opinions and ideas. What's something that is very valuable to you? Who's your hero? Describe your favorite Halloween candy, making note of how it tastes and smells. Tell the story of that first meeting. For this reason, it's important for students to be able to both express their own opinions and evaluate the opinions of others. No ESL student will have flawless grammar—native speakers don't even have that! But you should expect them to have a strong grasp of the grammar structures you've taught them. Mastering descriptive writing Descriptive writing a room, have them in with sensory words and literary devices. How to set your students up for success Absolutely essential for narrative writing, transitions ensure the sequence of events flows smoothly. If they're describing a room, have them start at the door and work their way around the room clockwise. Another important part of narrative writing is action words. How does a person get a job? Everything between the introduction and conclusion is there to elaborate, examine, or evaluate that same topic. Write the story of what happened. Where did they come from? Explain to your students that the verb, "should," is a signal word for opinion writing and is commonly used when expressing one's thoughts, opinions and ideas. Describe what happened without referencing characters in the movie. If you're teaching beginner or intermediate students, separate the language from the story elements by having them write a story they already know. How did you travel from your home country to the U.S.? For certain topics, students may need time for additional research, like when writing about science. Describe a classroom in your home country. Transitions appear in a number of different ways, such as: Single words: "first, next, finally, etc." Short phrases: "in conclusion, after that, for this reason, etc." Entire sentences: "Not only does drug use contribute to truancy, so does the lack of parental concern about attending school." It doesn't matter so much what transitions students use, as long as they use something that connects their ideas smoothly. This morning is just like any other school morning, except one thing: No one else is at school. How does a person learn to read? Generally speaking, you want to encourage students to draw from a wide range of vocabulary words rather than repeat the same words over and over. Should professional athletes be allowed to compete in the Olympics? How did they become famous? What are the stages of its life? We all do, even the most experienced writers. While there's definitely a stylistic component to descriptive writing, anyone with a good-sized vocabulary and a little bit of practice can write a vivid story. 3. Tell about a time you were embarrassed. Vocabulary and a little bit of practice can write a vivid story. 3. Tell about a time you were embarrassed. movie or book—for example, Harry Potter finds himself on the Millennium Falcon with Chewbacca. You can even give them a copy of this list to help them get started. Before beginning the writing exercise, take a few minutes to review transition words and phrases with your students. What was an important event in your childhood? The doors are opened and unlocked, but you're completely alone. 1. Suddenly you hear at least a dozen sets of boots running along the deck... The year is 1880, and a young girl whose bonnet hangs down her back from its strings sighs in relief. Should teenagers be allowed to make decisions about their sexual health without the consent of their parents? Take a few moments to talk about each of these elements with your students before they begin the activity. Why or why not? Use the following scene for inspiration: The boat rocks as each towering wave tosses it into the air and then lets it plunge. How will they overcome what is stopping them? What's the best way to study for an exam? How to set your students up for success For a story to be successful, it needs three important elements: setting, character and conflict. Narrative writing prompts Think about a time in your life when you were disappointed. For example, if they're describing a food from their home country, students may need to define a particular ingredient (e.g. kimchi, herbs de provence) that may not have a good English equivalent. How do you get a driver's license? Too much red ink will discourage any writer, so don't be overly critical with the feedback. As you correct their writing samples, try to focus on the key grammar points taught in class rather than pointing out every single mistake. That way, their descriptions are organized and structured, making it easier for the reader to form a clear picture of the imagery in their mind as they read. Sticking to the topic Many students have a tendency to start at the beginning of their assignment, without first planning how to structure their writing. These components aside, there are some generalities that make for good writing in English. Should people be allowed to smoke in restaurants? Did you have a pet as a child? Simple process writing can be nothing more than a numbered list of steps written in the simple present with imperative grammar. How did she get there? How to set your students up for success The best way to help your students master descriptive writing is to get them accustomed to using sensory words—the words that describe how something looks, sounds, smells, feels and tastes. Curriculum developer, Scholastic, has some great organizers you can print and give to your students to help them gather their thoughts before they write. While students should devote the majority of their essay to supporting the facts they agree with, they also need to dedicate a section to addressing the opposition's argument and explaining why it's wrong. Opinion prompts Should people under the age of 21 be allowed to drink alcohol? Now open your eyes and write about what you observed. They can write a story of their favorite movie, rather than come up with a plot of their own. Is it better for young adults to live at home with their parents or to live on their own? Descriptive writing prompts Go to a coffee shop or restaurant and watch the people. 2. Good opinion writing takes both sides of an argument into consideration. Also, be aware of any vocabulary that may be specific to the process students are describing. Smooth transitions Transition words are very important in written English and help make the writing assignments easier to read and understand. Should your country require young adults to serve in the military? Please explain your opinion. Below are elements to look for as you evaluate your students' writing assignments. Describe the life of someone famous in your culture. Moreover, narrative writing covers a sequence of events, telling the reader how these events relate to one another. Once they can answer these essential questions, they're ready to begin writing. You can also use these prompts for intermediate and advanced students by asking them to write full paragraphs using smooth transitions. Also, if your students are struggling to come up with their own stories, use comic books for inspiration. Lastly, make sure that your students are struggling to come up with their own stories, use comic books for inspiration. Lastly, make sure that your students are struggling to come up with their own stories, use comic books for inspiration. These are just some of the ways to get your students thinking about how to fill the page with their thoughts and look at different writing prompts and how you can use them to give students a boost in the right direction. Please explain. Just then a news alert comes over the radio... Start a story with the following phrase: He could see eyes in the shadows. This is called the rebuttal and should come just before the conclusion in an opinion piece. What would the perfect day look like? It has a beginning, a middle and an end, and aims to engross the reader and make them feel as if they're experiencing the story firsthand. Graphic organizers are a great way to help students think through what they believe about a given topic and get those thoughts in the right order for writing. If you want to challenge intermediate and advanced students, have them write paragraphs describing the brainstorming process rather than writing a numbered list. Write about what happened and how it has affected you. Describe that object. A list of writing prompts and a helpful teacher can go a long way in preventing writers' block and helping students to add extra color to their stories by having them brainstorm a list of action words at the beginning of the lesson. Teaching narration effectively Narrative writing tells a story. Writing prompts that go beyond fairy tales Everyone loves a good story, but not all people feel confident writing one of their own. (First, have your students close their eyes, then play them a clip from a movie scene) What did you picture as you listened to the scene? Write a travel brochure for your favorite vacation spot. Think of a scene in your favorite movie. How to set your students up for success When brainstorming ideas, ask your students to list the steps of how they came up with the content to write about. One thought leads to another, which leads to another, and before you know it, your assignment on best vacations has a paragraph covering the social inequality in Haiti! Good writing starts and finishes on the same subject. What steps must they take? How to set your students up for success Before starting the assignment, review modal verbs with your class. How do you get ready every morning? What are the necessary steps? How's it different from our classroom? Discuss each step of your morning routine. When assessing your students' writing assignments, ask yourself whether you can rearrange the order of their paragraphs without losing any of the meaning or logic. How did you learn to do it? Have them think about these elements and how they'll be presented in their own stories by asking the following questions: Where will the story take place? How do you make it? What caused this, and how did you get over it? Take time to review it with them before assigning this prompt.) Describe the life of a dollar bill, from when it comes off the printing press until it retires. Have each person in class write down a setting, one character and one object on three separate slips of paper. While bunny trails might be fun to follow, they don't make for quality writing. What happens next? Describe in detail why others should visit this location. Discuss how you would spend it from when you woke until you went to sleep. Stress to your ESL students the importance of structure, so that they're able to focus on the topic mentioned at the start of their composition. But before you start handing out writing assignments, first make sure your students understand the fundamentals of writing. For lower-level students, single words are easier to learn. Choose a favorite character from a book or movie. Use the following scene as inspiration: They said I was free to leave, but sitting in a helicopter with the city beneath me, where could I really go? Who's the main character of the story? 4 Key Elements to Look For in Your Students' Writing Every student writes differently based on a number of factors, including personality, writing style, their first language and how comfortable they are with expressing themselves in writing. Should students be required to take physical education?

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