

Incorporating Creative Writing into Your Sessions

Basic Tips

1. Provide your student with “seeds” to help start the writing process.
2. Consider allowing them to compose a poem or short story in their own language and help them translate.
3. Write with them: Sharing the creation of a story by switching turns each sentence can be fun and take some of the burden off your student. You can also write in response to the same prompt as them. Modeling writing habits can help reluctant/anxious writers.
4. It’s okay if it’s not for you or your student: Some students prefer to use their imaginations when writing rather than drawing on everyday life.

Poetry Activity: Cinquain

A cinquain is a simple poetic form that you can use with your student. See handout. You can help your student get started by brainstorming a topic for the poem. The topic could be a favorite food, season, or person, for instance. It could also be something you’ve read about.

Fiction Activity (use the first line generator for help: <http://writingexercises.co.uk/firstlinegenerator.php>)

1. Choose an opening sentence from the selection provided.
2. Write the next sentence.
3. Exchange with partner. Partner to write the next sentence.
4. Continue until you have 5-10 sentences.
5. Together, decide what the last sentence should be.

Nonfiction Activity

1. Have your student list three people who are important to him or her.
2. Have your student list three words that describe each person.
3. Have your student list three places that are important to him or her.
4. Have your student list three words that help describe the place.
5. Have your student choose one person OR place to write about. Challenge him or her to incorporate the three details they’ve already listed for the student. Finished product can be 3-5 sentences (or, obviously longer).

Websites:

- Story with no middle: <http://esl.fis.edu/learners/writing/colors/green07.htm>
- Revolting Recipe: <http://esl.fis.edu/learners/writing/colors/pink10.htm>
- Multiple writing exercises, reasoning behind using creative writing with ESL learners: <http://www.tefl.net/esl-articles/creative-writing.htm>
- Handouts for Cinquains and Haikus: http://www.eastsideliteracy.org/tutorsupport/RW/RW_Poetry.htm
- Links to multiple websites / prompt generators: <https://creativitiesefl.wordpress.com/creative-writing-prompts/>

LESSON PLAN:

1. Quick introductions (5 minutes)
2. Why CW? Why not CW? With a partner, come up with reasons. Share as a class (5-7 minutes)
3. Know if this is a good fit for your student or try it out, but okay if it isn't.
4. Three short activities
 - a. Poetry
 - b. Fiction
 - c. Nonfiction
5. Have tutors experience lessons as students and share their work. Provide feedback on how they would adapt with their students.
6. Give handout with activities and resources.
7. Viola!

She would never be poor again because...

The horse came back alone.

The color blue reminded her of....

She sat on the carpet, opening the big box.

He hadn't seen the old man since...

The house reminded him of....

The dog didn't move.