

Best Practices in Teaching Writing: An Outline

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- 1. Establish a positive atmosphere for writing, reading, and learning by:**
 - Creating an inviting classroom with flexible seating, accessible resources, and attractive surroundings
 - Modeling respect
 - Sharing your own writing with students
 - Establishing routines and expectations
- 2. Organize for writing by:**
 - Setting up a writing workshop structure
 - Using writer's notebooks
 - Selecting a meaningful approach to writing based on an understanding of students, experience, and professional recommendations
- 3. Arrange for meaningful-to-students reasons to write by:**
 - Promoting student choice and ownership
 - Providing opportunities for authentic writing and publishing
- 4. Ensure that students read, respond to, and use a variety of materials written for a variety of purposes and audiences by:**
 - Giving reading a role in the writing classroom
 - Using reading materials to model writing
 - Providing diverse reading materials
- 5. Write regularly across the curriculum and grade levels.**
- 6. Arrange for students to have constructive response to their writing and to offer response to other writers by:**
 - Making response an integral part of writing instruction
 - Meeting the needs of student writers through response
 - Providing selective responses that do not overwhelm the students
 - Responding throughout the writing process
 - Using a variety of techniques for response including informal and formal student-teacher conferences, peer conferences, response forms, whole-class responses, and self-assessments
- 7. Provide opportunities for students to collaborate as writers, thinkers, and learners by:**
 - Using a variety of collaboration techniques such as furniture placement, modeling collaboration, providing checklists and forms, and organizing writing partnerships or small groups
 - Providing guidelines including demonstrations of appropriate interactions and creating specific tasks for students to accomplish during their collaborations
- 8. Conduct effective mini-lessons on writing by:**
 - Choosing subjects that relate to students' needs as well as curriculum and/or assessment needs
 - Structuring mini-lessons so students can observe, discuss, and practice the targeted skills or strategies