Session 1 - Writing
Secondary
Edmund Dudley
OUP Days 2014, Serbia
In this session

• Reasons teenagers dislike writing
• Areas of difficulty
• Practical activities
Reasons teens dislike writing
What would you say?

• They don’t like using pens
• It’s old-fashioned
• They lack real-life experience
• They lack strategies, skills and techniques
• Stressful associations
• …
Reasons teens dislike writing
They don’t like using pens
Reasons teens dislike writing (by hand)

It’s old fashioned

outdated
slow
inconvenient

important
prestigious
exciting
Reasons teens dislike writing
They lack real-life experience

What do teenagers write *IRL*?
(i.e. outside school, not including homework or studying)

- instant messages
- text messages (SMS)
- emails
- uhhhhh....
Reasons teens dislike writing
They lack strategies, skills and techniques

planning  register
revising  appropriate language
drafting  discourse management
paragraphs  cohesive devices

style
Reasons teens dislike writing

Stressful associations
Reasons teens dislike writing
What would you say?

- They don’t like using pens
- It’s old-fashioned
- They lack real-life experience
- They lack strategies, skills and techniques
- Stressful associations
- …

Any other ideas?
• Reasons teenagers dislike writing
• Areas of difficulty
• Practical activities
Areas of difficulty
What would you say?

What causes the most problems for your students?
Areas of difficulty

- Getting started
- Generating ideas
- Planning
- Using appropriate language
- Drafting and revising
Areas of difficulty

Getting started
Not-corridor-work 😊

Me to Polar Bear Resistance League

Post photographic evidence that you did 'homework' and not 'corridor-work'. Upload a photo of your finished homework. In the background your home surroundings should be clearly visible.
Areas of difficulty
Generating ideas

1. Write down everything you know about New York City. Collect all your ideas as a class.

I have no idea about this topic. My teacher said to write about New York. I have nothing. I can't think. New York is a big city in the USA. Where? On the east side? Statue of Liberty, Manhattan, what else?

brainstorm

freewriting
Areas of difficulty
Planning structure

Writing guide

4 You have been asked by the editors of an English magazine to write a review of a book which has been given an award for the best book of the last decade. Remember to use paragraphs and nominal subject clauses.

Paragraph 1: Describe the author, the genre of the book and the characters.

Paragraph 2: Describe the general topic, main plot, and the setting.

Paragraph 3: Describe negative and positive aspects of the plot, acting, characters, etc.

Paragraph 4: Encourage or discourage the readers of the review to read the book.

CHECK YOUR WORK

Have you:
- written four paragraphs?
- included all the necessary information?
- written in an appropriate style?
- included all the appropriate phrases from exercise 1?
- included nominal clauses?
- checked your work for mistakes?
Planning a written review

Planning paragraphs

Par.1: a short summary of the plot

Paragraph 1: “My mother told me that this book is exciting and I got it for Christmas. It’s a crime story.”

Par.2: focus on one interesting scene

Paragraph 2: “It was about 10 people who went on an island for a holiday, but it wasn’t a calm, lazy holiday; it was a scary holiday. In the end, everybody died, except one person.”

Par.3: give your opinion of the book

Paragraph 3: “I really enjoyed it. I couldn’t put down the book.”
Areas of difficulty
Using appropriate language

1. Read the review. Are these sentences true or false?
   1. The setting for the story is a beautiful lake.
   2. Stanley should not be in a detention centre.
   3. The novel has a secret reason for asking the boys to dig holes.


3. Read the review below. Find two sentences with nominal subject clauses in the review in exercise 1. Rewrite these in ordinary sentences.

4. Read the last two lines. Could you use nominal subject clauses to start with what?

5. Rewrite the sentences with nominal subject clauses starting with what?
   1. All the characters are looking for happiness.
   2. The setting is really unusual.
   3. I loved the book at the end.
   4. The main character really needs a holiday.
   5. I really enjoy reading classic novels.
   6. Stephen King is famous for writing thrillers.

6. Choose a book you know. Write notes under these headings. You can include any other important information.

   Title: Where is it set?
   Author: Main characters:
   Type of book: What happens?

7. Complete the text about The Lord of the Rings. Use the phrases from exercise 2.

   The Lord of the Rings is a fantasy story. [1] (What is a fantasy story?)

Areas of difficulty
Drafting and revising

→ Get students to comment on each other’s work at the re-drafting stage

Dear Balint,

I really like your car, even though I could barely read it. 😊

I think you should start with a great advantage of the car that gets people’s attention.
Areas of difficulty

- Getting started
- Generating ideas
- Planning
- Using appropriate language
- Drafting and revising
- Any others?
In this session

- Reasons teenagers dislike writing
- Areas of difficulty
- Practical activities
Practical activities
Freewriting

How freewriting works:
• When you get the topic, start writing.
• Don’t stop.
• Keep your pen on the paper.
• Write whatever comes into your head!
  – Your topic:
Practical activities
Using technology

Do you get teens to use technology to complete writing tasks? How?
Practical activities
Planning only

1. Describing an ordinary Monday afternoon, it’s maybe spring, birds are chirping, neighbours act as day usually do, kids take the kindergarten, is full. An ideal picture.

2. Shows the downside, the kind lady from the first paragraph spies on you, kids are too loud, etc.

3. Collecting unusual/funny stories about the street, for example: strong of a burglary, etc.

4. Summary with my opinion about living there.
Practical activities
Going hybrid :)

Quick crossword No 13,537

Across
5 Do as you wish (2,2,5)
8 Japan’s highest peak (4)
9 Cold running drink? (3,5)
10 Member of a branch of Islam (5)
11 Extensive landed property (5)
13 Speaking faculty (8)
15 Roof straw (6)
16 Island part of Tanzania (8)
18 Wharf (4)
19 Stop being so stupid (4,3,2)

Down
1 Womanly (8)
2 Shrub with white flowers and aromatic berries (6)
3 Young upwardly mobile professional (6)
4 A is A (magic) (4)
6 Squashy green food (5,4)
7 Under ski (9)
12 Peaceful (8)
14 Official language of Israel (3)
15 List of duties on imports or exports (6)
17 Type of camera lens (4)
Practical activities
Crosswords for vocabulary

Quick crossword No 13,537

Across
5 Do as you wish! (2,2,5)
8 Japan’s highest peak (4)
9 Cold running drink? (3,5)
10 Member of a branch of Islam (6)
11 Extensive landed property (6)
13 Speaking faculty (6)
15 Roof straw (6)
16 Island part of Tanzania (8)
18 Wharf (4)
19 Stop being so stupid! (4,3,2)

Down
1 Womanly (8)
2 Shrub with white flowers and aromatic berries (6)
3 Young upwardly mobile professional (6)
4 A is A (anag) (4)
6 Squishy green food (5,4)
7 Underskirt (9)
12 Peaceful (8)
14 Official language of Israel (6)
15 List of duties on imports or exports (6)
17 Type of camera lens (4)
Practical activities
Compulsory phrases

Have you ever seen the youtube video called Elektrosidklotball?
If you haven't be my guest.

What is it about? Two teams, with a special tapper collard, telling you. It's a tapper collar, the hands of the other teams, time during (or not) the match scene, let's zoom in on the place.

Quick crossword No 13,537

ACROSS
5 Do as you wish! (2,2,5)
8 Japan's highest peak (4)
9 Cold running drink? (3,5)
10 Member of a branch of Islam (6)
11 Extensive landed property (5)
13 Speaking faculty (6)
15 Roof straw (6)
16 Island part of Tanzania (8)
18 Whirl (4)
19 Stop being so stupid! (4,3,2)

DOWN
1 Womanly (8)
2 Shrub with white flowers and aromatic berries (6)
3 Young upwardly mobile professional (6)
4 A is A (anag) (4)
6 Squishy green food (5,4)
7 Underskirt (3)
12 Peaceful (8)
14 Official language of Israel (5)
15 List of duties on imports or exports (6)
17 Type of camera lens (4)
Practical activities
Planning rubrics

1. Introduce the topic
2. What most people think
3. What most people forget
4. What you need to remember
5. What we want you to do
My topic: Hungarian football

1. Most people think that Hungarian football is terrible.
2. Most people forget that they practice a lot.
3. What you need to remember: They don’t play very well, but they earn a lot of money.
Practical activities

- Freewriting
- Using technology
- Planning only
- Going hybrid
- Compulsory phrases
- Planning rubrics
In this session

• Reasons teenagers dislike writing
• Areas of difficulty
• Practical activities
Thank you!

Session 1 - Writing
Secondary
Edmund Dudley
OUP Days 2014, Serbia

legyened.edublogs.org