



SCHOLARSHIP OF EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Jennifer Lee



The problem

- When students come into my writing class, they come with a lot of baggage and lived challenges:
 - *really deeply embedded ideas of whether or not they are good writers or have ever been good at writing—that were established and fortified by past experiences and past teachers.*
 - *questions about how useful/applicable writing will be in their lives*
 - *concerns about whether their thoughts will come through clearly since English is not their first language*
 - *obsession with grammar and usage, not so much about critical thinking*
 - *fear of word counts*
 - *long hours at work, difficulties with home responsibilities, time management and exhaustion*
 - *LOTS of anxiety all around*
- They see writing as something that is either good or bad from its origin. I want them to consider writing as a process of swimming in inarticulate thoughts, slowly getting rid of what doesn't work and being left with what was best. Clumsiness and mistakes are part of what make the process of writing. They need to see the importance of completion, engagement and struggle.

The goal

- Boost their belief in the possibility of their own success, their motivation and their engagement level **well before** the end-of-semester panic sets in.
 - give students the opportunity to make realizations about their capabilities and the possibilities of great success in time to work on development of skills around midterms.
- THEREFORE, my strategy is to try to move the “Aha!” moment to earlier in the semester so that they will have more time to engage fully in their writing process and experience growth—gain confidence and practice executing their new skills.
- I define the “Aha!” moment as when a student sees that writing is hard for everyone, whether you are a student who has never written more than a page or a professional author—but it is possible for anyone.
 - The process of crafting words into fully fledged ideas in an essay will be a stop and go, jolting, messy, slow at times, inspired at others, interrupted, stop and go, uncertain process for everyone.
 - The draft of any writing piece should suck in some ways. Expect it, embrace it and participate in the process.

Strategy to enhance student success

- Provide an opportunity for substantive feedback earlier on in the semester.
 - The draft of the first major paper will be due the second class meeting.
 - I sent each student a link to an audio recording with encouraging feedback.
 - began with enthusiasm and positive feedback, which is slathered in release from judgement
 - Individual feedback, affirmation and connection early on is more valuable than extended instruction time. Grade for the assignment is first given after students have had the opportunity to listen to my feedback and incorporate it.
 - affirms the value of revision and shows in practice the writing process I teach
 - Feedback via audio recording feedback, as opposed to written in paragraphs (overwhelming for students) or margins (scattered and lacking cohesion), forces me to provide feedback that is focused on critical thought processes and comprehensive.
 - no misunderstanding of my tone or attitude
 - lends itself to a narrative style—fluid connection of ideas as opposed to disparate notes in the margins
 - forces me to focus on critical thinking and ideas, not grammar errors.

Jennifer

Edit details



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Strategy to enhance student success

- Give them lots of examples of other student writing while in the midst of their own writing process.
 - For every major assignment, the class will participate in guided peer review and in class discussion of individual thesis statements/outlines (using actual student work, not polished examples)
 - Show students other student work that assures them they are not the only ones who don't always "get" it. This process will both give assurance and provide inspiration for reaching a higher standard as they see both students who are struggling and further along.
 - *Methods*
 - Collect all student drafts and create a document of all the submitted thesis statements for class discussion (without identifying information).
 - Use online group brainstorm tools like Padlet, Google docs, Popplet, etc. to give students the ability to see a snapshot of everyone's process and discuss/share. It's efficient for group discussion and eliminates the need to speak in hypothetical examples. It also give the instructor the opportunity to quickly see if there has been a common misunderstanding or if something needs to be explained better.
 - Do detailed/guided peer review feedback process



Mini outline for E 3

American populations are concern about the impact of the invasion of illegal immigrants on their economy

1. Once in the United States of America, illegal immigrants are working but are not paying taxes due to under table jobs they are doing

2. Illegal immigrants hurt American economy, they should pay taxes, so the money made from working United States will not be sent to their home country.

3 A second chance has been offered to illegal immigrants to grant them sort of legal status which is the amnesties, expanding visa programs to help them stay, work without fear to be catch and deported

 Add comment

A plant based has many benefits. A vegan diet will result in a healthier lifestyle for humans and a healthier environment for humans to live in compared to a diet including meat and/or dairy products.


1) Lowers risks of certain

Universal healthcare would lower healthcare cost, create a healthier work force, and improve the American economy.

1. One reason why universal healthcare should be available for all Americans is because it would lower healthcare cost.

2. Another reason why universal healthcare should be available for all Americans is because; it would create a healthier work force.

3. The third reason why universal healthcare should be available for all Americans is because; it would help to improve (boost) the economy.


 Add comment

The travel ban on some Muslim nations has travel ban has short and long term of the negative effects on USA in the reputation, radicalization, and insecurity of us citizens serving overseas.

1) Reputation

The U.S needs to focus on the mental health issues that have presented each individual before a mass shooting to prevent more of them and give them the mental help with psychologist and therapist they need and do some readjustments to law enforcement.

1. Have a better school system with counselors, therapist and psychologist
2. Anyone with act of violence or presents self harm should receive therapy
3. firearms for self protection is not be an excuse to purchase a gun.

 Add comment

African-American Studies should become mandatory across all American High School Curriculum because it will teach a more complete history, a greater appreciation for collective Black culture, and will push against roots of racism in the US.

(3) Taking online classes , support students to save their time or have flexibility to continue working, improve their technical skill, and the ability to find easily their assignments or quizzes answer through the internet.

 Add comment

Ban on plastic straws in the U.S. brings negative impacts related to disabled people, alternative material, and awareness campaign.

1. The law banning plastic straws it became unfair in the point of view of some disabled people.

Prof. Lee +17 • 1m

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Add comment

There needs to be an overruling guideline that satisfies the wearing of head coverings that are reflective of religion and/or culture across all levels of sports because it is an issue of discrimination, respect, and self-awareness.

1. One reason that there should be guidelines set for head coverings in sports is due to an issue of discrimination
2. Another reason that head coverings should be included in sports'

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Add comment

Artificial intelligence is essential for healthcare because it can resolve the human resource crisis, improve patient's outcome and improve the relationship between patient and doctor.

1. Most workers in healthcare have been overloaded so Artificial intelligence can resolve some human resources crisis.
2. Artificial intelligence is capable to introduce some potential solution for the patients and it can increase the

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Add comment

Vaccines are the best protection from serious and/or deadly diseases and everyone should consider getting vaccinated.

1. Vaccines can help save your life as well as protect others around you.
2. Vaccine preventable diseases are expensive and vaccines can help you save time and money.
3. Vaccines are amongst the safest products administered to patients and are continuously monitored by the FDA's Center of Biological Evaluation and Research (CBER) and the CDC.

Add comment

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Ban on plastic straws in the U.S. brings negative impacts related to disabled people, alternative material, and awareness campaign.

1. The law banning plastic straws it became unfair in the point of view of some disabled people.
2. Other alternative materials to replace plastics are still having not exceeded consumer expectations.
3. The ban on plastic straws raised questions of how to persuade consumers to stop using plastic straws.

Add comment

Livestock production is a major producer of greenhouse gasses, depletes water sources, and degrades land; therefore, people should consume less animal products to lessen the impact it has on the environment.

1. While other sectors such as

A plant based has many benefits. A vegan diet will result in a healthier lifestyle for humans and a healthier environment for humans to live in compared to a diet including meat and/or dairy products.

- 1) Lowers risks of certain disease such as cancer or heart disease.
- 2) A lower carbon imprint

Add comment

People should drop off their fear to embrace A.I robots for 3 reasons. 1. The first reason, AI robots are not dangerous to us. 2. The second reason is that the AI robots won't occupy our entire jobs. 3. Thirdly, there are things that we couldn't do without AI robots.

Add comment

Concubinage (two people of the opposite sex living together without the benefit of marriage) presents many dangers such premature divorce in the future, and harmful effects on others.

1. First of all, two people of the opposite sex who are living together is a poor training for marriage.
2. Equally important, there is the effect that a couple's living together

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- I) Reputation
- II) Radicalization
- III) Insecurity of US citizens oversea.

Add comment

Three major benefits of automation are economy grow, advances in the health care system, and less depletion of the environment.

1. One-way automation helps the economy grow is by creating new jobs
2. The advances in healthcare are the second benefit of automation.
3. One more benefit of automation is the environmental conservancy by saving energy.

Add comment

People trying to purchase a gun should undergo a stricter background check/mental health screening, be required to have a permit for a gun, and there should also be a ban on major assault weapons and high capacity magazines to family households.

African-American Studies should become mandatory across all American High School Curriculum because it will teach a more complete history, a greater appreciation for collective Black culture, and will push against roots of racism in the US.

1. African-American studies fills in what's missing in American History.
2. African-American studies will influence greater understanding and appreciation for African-American culture.
3. Incorporating African-American studies into the curriculum will help uncover the manifestations of institutionalized, generational, and subconscious racism.


Add comment

Although, the president of the US is trying to reduce the number of immigrants entering the U.S, the migrants in the caravan headed for the U.S should be treated with dignity and respect given that it is their right to seek asylum; they are fleeing their countries because they don't have any other options and the United States can manage this issue in an orderly way.

1. Men, woman and children are desperately walking over 2,000 m to a safer country the US.

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Peer Review Questions for Essay 3

Answer all the questions below in complete sentences.

1. Is there a position/argument that is stated clearly?
 - a. Is it relevant?
 - i. Is it an issue that has been resolved either by a law or cultural change? Is it an issue that is still current and of interest to the wider audience?
 - b. Is it specific?
 - i. Is the issue being discussed wide and broad? Should a narrower aspect of the issue be the focus of the paper?
 - c. Is it debatable?
 - i. Write an opposing statement to the thesis statement. For example, “education is very important in the United States”---the opposing statement is “Education is not very important to the United States.” This doesn’t make sense—and shows you that the original statement was not debatable.
 - d. Type out the writer's complete thesis statement.
 - e. After these steps above (for which you give complete sentence responses here), are there any issues with the writer's thesis statement? If so, elaborate in complete sentences that are specific and explanatory.
2. Is there an interesting and relevant hook/fact/statistic/story shared in the introduction? If so, what was it about? If not, what kinds of facts or statistics from what sources do you think might be helpful or interesting? Give the writer an idea of what he/she may include for interest.
3. List in numerical order the topic sentences exactly as you read them in the essay.
 - a. One by one, check to see if each topic sentence reflects the idea of the thesis statement. If not, explain to the writer how it doesn’t connect well with the thesis statement of his/her essay. Give some thoughtful and complete suggestions on how to change it so it is better connected and in support of the thesis.
 - b. One by one, check to see if each topic sentence summarizes the contents of the paragraph. If not, write that in the margins. Explain why it does or doesn’t act as the summary sentence of the paragraph. Give some suggestions as to how he/she can repair it.
4. For each body paragraph, count the number of supporting details/quotes/summaries/examples the writer gives. Give the exact number in your response. Also verify that each body paragraph has a minimum of ONE detail/support

Initial plan for assessing success

- **Qualitative assessment:** Students will write their diagnostic essay (that is on the first day of class) that asks them to reflect on their strengths, struggles and goals as writers. The same self-reflection, and opportunity to practice metacognition, will be given at the end of the semester. Their perception and evaluation of their own growth and development will serve as an opportunity for qualitative assessment.
- **Quantitative assessment:** Both the final grades and drop rates can be used to quantitatively assess student success. I will be using my Spring ENGL 101A course that also met on Saturday mornings (and has similar student demographics and class size) as the point of comparison to my Fall ENGL 101A class.

So, what happened?

- Student feedback to audio feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Some students have listened to their recording between 4-7 times. Most have listened 2-3.
- MOST importantly, many more students completed extensive revisions on their drafts throughout the semester. Many more students actively engaged in the revision process (visiting the writing center, using the online tutor/writing services, asking each other questions and asking questions of me). I think this is because they knew that their efforts will be rewarded (not for doing it, but for the changes it brought on in their writing).
- Several students made a marked turnaround from a lackluster first submission of the first essay to fully participating in the writing process. I believe it is at least in part to introducing them to the procedures and attitudes of revision early in the semester.
- In the meantime, I believe that my strategy set a tone that encouraged them to fail and revise/improve. This communicated to them that I believed their first work doesn't tell me about what their next work has the potential to become.
- Engagement with resources proved to be more important than I realized at the onset. Students with agency in their learning regularly visited the writing center, asked me questions or submitted their work for feedback on Smarthinking Online and showed continual engagement with their writing and thinking processes.
- The grades for the revisions were MUCH better than in other semesters.

Student responses to audio feedback

Accessibility:

- I can be able to listen to it again and again.
- I really like it Clyp because I can listen to it many times while I look at my paper.
- I think this process is good for me because I can hear it again and again compared to other writing.

No pressure, conversational tone:

- I found the audio link very helpful because points were clearly explained and it felt like I was having a conversation.
- I think a great way to help students to improve their writings because we can calmly listen to the audio and that process makes us feel like we are having a classroom conversation.

Ease of use and quality of feedback:

- I think it's an easier way and clearer way to get feedback instead of writing comments on the essay.
- Clyp was very easy to use and the audio was understandable.
- It was my first time getting feedback through an audio link, but in a good way compared to the comments I would usually get on a rough draft.
- It was simple easy and accessible. I actually enjoy it.
- I think the audio link was very much better than what I'm used to in English class. It was very simple and easy to access. You got right to the point of everything and it was easy.
- The feedback was very detailed and it helped a lot with the question I had about my essay. Even though it wasn't physically hearing your voice made things so much more clear of what I had to do.
- Personally, the feedback you sent me through audio clyp was really helpful because you explained in a very clear and detailed way all the points that I have to improve in my writing.

Trends in Grades over four semesters

