

The Write Stuff

Building confidence in the written word

The key to effective essay and long answer writing lies in a set of simple, easy to apply skills that can be applied in exam conditions, class-based assessment or in the completion of student coursework. In this one-hour engaging workshop, students will experience concrete strategies that they can use to generate ideas, form arguments and plan essays.

RATIONALE

Advanced writing skills are an important aspect of academic performance as well as of subsequent work-related performance. Students however, often say that they find the process of planning and writing an essay to be fraught with opportunity for distraction, anxiety and disjointed thinking. Therefore, students will benefit from a range of strategies including creative thinking, time management, motivation and planning. Motivation change tends to follow a change in behaviour, that is, positive writing experiences are essential for positive attitude formation or change. Writing instruction then should aim to provide ample opportunities for students to gain positive experiences (Petric 2002). This workshop will focus on the power of words, sentences and paragraphs with engaging exercises in short form writing. Building on this, the students will learn effective paraphrasing and argument building techniques that they can apply to their essay planning, structuring and writing.

As with reading the evidence suggests that enjoyment of writing is related to attainment.

Clark (2012)

OBJECTIVES

- To write with confidence and flair.
- To be able to structure an essay with clarity.
- To reduce anxiety attached to starting the writing process.
- To help students confidently use the technical skills of referencing and paraphrasing.
- To enable students to generate creative ideas and value thinking processes.

SKILLS taught and their BENEFITS

Creative Thinking is a skill which lets you consider things from a fresh perspective and different angles. It's an inventive thought process which results in surprising conclusions and new ways of doing things. Creative thinking can be aided by brainstorming or lateral thinking to generate ideas.

Proofreading Sometimes when we're writing, we're working quickly, or we're so engaged in what we're writing that it's easy to make mistakes. Proofreading a piece of work after it's been written helps to ensure that it's error-free and checked to a high standard.

Essay Planning is essential for effective study, as it helps students make the most of their time and avoid burnout.

Argument Structuring helps you ensure that all of your arguments are clearly and consistently argued, and that you have sufficient evidence to support them. It also reduces the risk of omitting some really important section or argument that is central to the issues raised by the essay.

Using formal and informal language with confidence allows the writer to broaden their capability of delivering messages and instructions with clarity and avoid misinterpretation.

87% of students found that they "It's great to learn how to write confidently. It has helped me know how to form an essay in a much easier way."

Year 11 Student – Walney School (2023)

OUTCOMES

By the end of the workshop, your students will have:

- Identified an essay planning technique that works for them.
- Developed an understanding of paraphrasing, referencing, formal and informal language and how to use them effectively.
- Gained confidence in their own abilities and potential.
- Increased motivation and reduced stress levels connected to essay planning and writing.
- Gained confidence in their own abilities and potential.

GATSBY Benchmarks: 3,6
NERUPI Framework: Practise
PSHE Core: Living in the wider world

Statutory Guidance, Curriculum and Frameworks