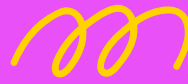


Laying the Groundwork for Great Writing

Maxwell's
Teaching
Tips



Before we jump into the pragmatics of teaching writing, there are four big things you should always keep in mind:

1. Give Students Time to Write

Students need dedicated time to work on their writing. We're not just talking about homework, they need regular chances for them to write in class. This writing time works best when it goes hand-in-hand with the next three ideas.

As students write, it's super important to give them good support. This means giving clear feedback on their work, but be careful not to give too much. Remember, you're not trying to fix every single mistake they make. Sometimes, fixing big things like how they put sentences together (think Subject-Verb-Object) is more important than other writing essentials like transition words. Also, make sure your expectations for every assignment are crystal clear from the start.

2. Smart Support and Clear Feedback

3. Tools for Every Step of Writing

When you teach writing, make sure you're giving students tools for every part of the writing process. This could be teaching them different ways to brainstorm ideas. (There are many different charts students can use to lay their thoughts out onto the paper.) While they're writing, help them learn how to check their own work. After they've written, guide them as they revise their essay for mistakes in grammar, spelling, or even just unclear thoughts. Remind them that revising is a huge part of getting better at writing.

This last point is something I always talk about in my teaching tips: create a positive classroom. You, as the teacher, should be part of their writing community. Let students make choices in their writing tasks, praise their effort and what they achieve, and make sure their writing has a real purpose. Set goals that are challenging but doable. If you can, adjust assignments to what your students are interested in and what they need.

4. Build a Positive Writing Space



Now, as we look at the pragmatics of writing, remember that your students are all unique individuals. There is not a one-size-fits-all approach to teaching. This means you might need to make on-the-fly adjustments to your lessons to give your students the best opportunity to learn.