

Empowerment Topic: Developing Writing Skills

Lesson Objective

To help familiarize students with the value of developing writing skills.

Preparation

Preview the video (2 minutes 41 seconds) in advance of the lesson.

Warm-up Activity

1. Guide students to understand the phrase “developing writing skills.” Help them to understand that the ability to write well is a skill that will continue to grow over time.
2. Talk with students about how the idea of being able to write well is a great communication tool they can put to use no matter what career they settle upon.
3. Have students name some of their favorite writers representing different genres.
4. Have students identify favorite books and read favorite parts or passages aloud from these books; talk together about why the writing in these passages are appealing.
5. Invite students to make a list of the joys and challenges of learning to write well.

View the Video: *Developing Writing Skills*

1. Tell students they will be watching the video titled, “Developing Writing Skills.” (Tip: You can use steps 2 and 3 to establish a framework for watching the video, or just skip ahead to step 4.)
2. Explain that the video presents role models telling why writing is an important skill to develop.
3. Tell students that, as they view the video, they should listen for ways they can begin developing writing skills.
4. View the video together.
5. Tell students they are going to view the video again; before this second viewing, invite students to think of questions or observations they may have about the writing tips the role models share.
6. Have students discuss how the ability to write well might be valuable in a variety of careers.

Video Follow-Up

1. Ask students to talk or write about their video-related questions, comments, reactions and responses.
2. Invite students to note specific things they learned about the importance of and some of the best ways to develop writing featured in the video and to reflect upon their observations (e.g., “I never realized the link between reading and writing.”).

3. Encourage students to edit any written work so it can be shared with classmates.
4. Use student writings as a springboard to further discussion.

Extension Activities

Invite students to visit the website www.figment.com, the online writing community for young girls mentioned in the video. (Tip: Initially, you may want to investigate this site as a group. That way, you can guide students as to how best benefit from joining the site)

Related Questions to Explore

Use the list of questions below to help students learn more about the information presented in the video:

- In the video we learn that different writers use different ways or methods to develop their writing skills. Do you know some of these ways that work for you? If not, how can you discover ways that do work best for you?
- The first speaker in the video also says that some writers use free form writing and some work from an outline. What is the difference between these two ways of writing? Does the way you choose depend on the type of writing you are doing?
- More than one role model said that to be a good writer you have to be a good reader. Why do you think they said that?
- The third role model said that it takes a lot of determination and discipline to sit down and set a writing goal for yourself. Explain the meaning of determination and discipline. How do these help you become a good writer?
- Tell about a time you set and met a goal. Have you ever set and met a writing goal? What kind of writing goals do you think would be helpful if you want to become a better writer?
- Besides exploring the Career Girls website, what are some other ways you can learn more about how to grow as a writer?
- How can practice help you become a better writer?