

Developing Writing Skills: Classroom Lesson Plan

Lesson Topic:

Writing Across Careers

Lesson Objective:

Students will be able to describe the value of developing writing skills and explain the role of writing in a variety of careers.

Materials:

- Popular age-appropriate books
- Projector or other method to watch the movie

Advanced Preparation:

- [Preview the video](#) before sharing it with your students [2:41].
- Collect an assortment of popular age-appropriate books.

Warm-up Activity:

1. Guide students to understand the meaning of 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. Tell students that the skill of writing is a great communication tool that they can put to use no matter what career they settle upon.
3. Have students name some of their favorite writers and books. Each student should share the reason(s) that they love these writer(s)/book(s).

View the Video: "Developing Writing Skills"

1. Tell students they will be watching the video titled, "Developing Writing Skills".
2. Explain that the video presents role models talking about 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. View the video again; this time, invite students to formulate questions or comments about the ideas discussed in the video and to be prepared to discuss these after viewing the video.

Video Follow-up:

1. Ask students to offer their questions, comments, reactions and responses to the video.
2. Invite students to note specific things they learned about the importance of writing and/or some of the best ways to develop writing (e.g., "I never realized the link between reading and writing.").
3. Divide students into groups of 2–3. Give each group a few popular age-appropriate books. Have each group select one passage from one book to focus on while answering the following questions. This can be done in the form of a group writing assignment or a discussion.
 - a) Why did your group select this passage?
 - b) What was appealing about this passage or the writing style?
 - c) Imagine you are this author. Tell about the process the author might have followed to write this book. How long did it take? Did he/she write just one draft? How long has

he/she been practicing writing? What challenges did he/she overcome to write this book?

d) What do you think the joys and challenges are when learning to write well? Why?

4. Link the importance of developing writing skills to students' future careers by discussing how this skill is vital in all types of careers. Challenge the students to think about how each of the following careers uses writing.

Teacher

Accountant

Movie Star

Construction Worker

Bus Driver

Scientist

Baseball Coach

Fashion Designer

Engineer

5. Ask students to continue thinking about the importance of developing writing skills for a variety of careers by talking to friends and family about how they use writing in their careers.

Extension Activities:

1. Use the “Related Questions to Explore” as discussion springboards or writing prompts to help students further explore the importance of developing writing skills.
2. Invite students to visit the website www.figment.com, the online writing community for young girls mentioned in the video.

Related Questions to Explore:

- In the video, we learn that different writers use different ways or methods to develop their writing skills. Do you know some of the ways that work for you? If not, how can you discover ways to develop your writing skills that work best for you?
- The first speaker in the video 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 method 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?



Ideas for Future Lessons/Activities Related to Developing Writing Skills:

1. How to Become a Good Writer: Exploring and Understanding the Skills that Good Writers Possess
2. Literature-Based Learning: Analyzing Novels Written by Famous Women
3. Conducting and Recording Interviews with Real Life Inspiring Authors
4. Writing in Hollywood: Comparing Screenplays to Novels
5. Real-Life Writing: Collecting and Comparing the Real-Life Writing from Various Professions
6. Practicing Real-Life Writing: Emails, Notes, and Other Business Communication
7. Developing Our Writing Through Goal Setting: What Can We Do to Improve Our Skills?