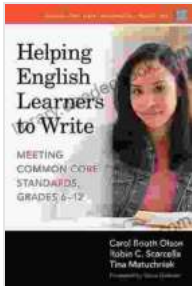


# Helping English Learners to Write: A Comprehensive Guide



## Helping English Learners to Write: Meeting Common Core Standards, Grades 6–12 (Common Core State Standards in Literacy Series) by Lynn Franklin

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 11165 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 192 pages



English learners face unique challenges in the writing classroom. They may come from diverse linguistic backgrounds, have varying levels of proficiency in English, and may struggle with academic language and writing conventions. As educators, it is our responsibility to provide these students with the support they need to succeed in writing.

## Understanding the Challenges

Before we can develop effective strategies, it is important to understand the challenges that English learners face in writing.

## Linguistic Differences

- English learners may come from languages with different grammar, syntax, and vocabulary.
- This can make it difficult for them to understand and produce written English.
- For example, a student from a language that does not use articles (e.g., Spanish) may struggle to use them correctly in English.

### **Academic Language**

- Academic language is the formal language used in academic settings.
- It is different from everyday language and can be challenging for English learners to acquire.
- Academic language includes specific vocabulary, complex sentence structures, and formal tone.

### **Writing Conventions**

- English learners may not be familiar with the conventions of English writing.
- This includes things like capitalization, punctuation, and paragraphing.
- Inconsistencies in writing conventions can make it difficult for readers to understand the student's message.

### **Scaffolding for Success**

Scaffolding is a key strategy for supporting English learners in writing. It involves providing temporary support that gradually decreases as the student becomes more proficient.

## **Visual Aids**

- Visual aids, such as pictures, charts, and graphs, can help English learners to understand complex concepts.
- They can also provide a visual representation of the student's ideas.
- For example, a student writing about a science experiment could use a diagram to illustrate the steps of the experiment.

## **Sentence Frames**

- Sentence frames provide a scaffold for students to produce complete sentences.
- They can be especially helpful for students who are struggling with grammar or syntax.
- For example, a student could use the sentence frame "The main character in the story is..." to write a sentence about the protagonist of a book.

## **Word Banks**

- Word banks provide students with a list of words that they can use in their writing.
- This can help them to expand their vocabulary and avoid using repetitive language.
- For example, a student writing about a historical event could use a word bank of vocabulary related to history.

## **Differentiated Instruction**

Differentiated instruction is essential for meeting the individual needs of English learners.

### **Varying Content**

- Vary the content of your instruction to match the students' interests and language proficiency levels.
- For example, you could provide more scaffolding for students who are struggling and more challenging activities for students who are more proficient.

### **Grouping Students**

- Group students based on their language proficiency levels and learning needs.
- This will allow you to provide more targeted instruction.
- For example, you could group students who are struggling with grammar together to work on a grammar unit.

### **Flexible Pacing**

- Allow students to work at their own pace.
- This will ensure that all students have the opportunity to master the material.
- For example, you could give students a longer deadline for a writing assignment if they are struggling with the task.

### **Assessment and Feedback**

Assessment and feedback are essential for helping English learners improve their writing.

### **Authentic Assessment**

- Use authentic assessment to evaluate students' writing skills.
- Authentic assessment involves assessing students on real-world writing tasks.
- For example, you could have students write an essay or a report.

### **Descriptive Feedback**

- Provide students with descriptive feedback on their writing.
- This feedback should be specific and actionable.
- For example, instead of saying "Your essay is good," you could say "Your essay is well-organized and your arguments are supported by evidence."

### **Peer Review**

- Involve students in peer review to provide them with feedback from their peers.
- This allows students to learn from each other and develop their critical thinking skills.
- Be sure to provide students with guidelines for peer review to ensure that the feedback is constructive.

### **Technology Integration**

Technology can be a valuable tool for supporting English learners in writing.

## **Word Processors**

- Word processors provide students with a variety of tools to help them write, such as spell-checkers, grammar checkers, and word prediction.
- These tools can help students to identify and correct errors in their writing.

## **Online Resources**

- There are a variety of online resources available to support English learners in writing.
- These resources include writing prompts, grammar exercises, and vocabulary builders.
- For example, the website [www.englishcentral.com](http://www.englishcentral.com) provides students with access to videos, interactive exercises, and personalized feedback.

## **Language Learning Apps**

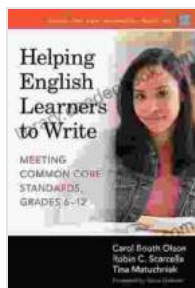
- There are also a variety of language learning apps available.
- These apps can help students to improve their vocabulary, grammar, and writing skills.
- For example, the app DuoLingo provides students with gamified lessons in a variety of languages.

Helping English learners to write is a complex but rewarding task. By understanding the challenges that these students face, scaffolding their learning, and providing them with differentiated instruction, assessment,

and feedback, we can help them to succeed in writing and achieve their full potential.

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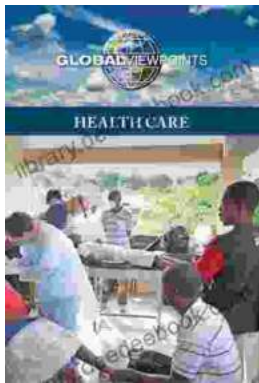
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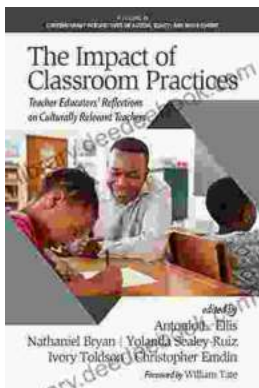
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