

## Developing and Testing Writing Skills

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### Abstract

I would like to discuss in my paper some issues on developing writing skills and testing them. Historically, writing as a communicative skill has not been given much attention in the foreign language classroom. Teachers of foreign languages often complain that the students can not write a simple sentence after they have covered the grammar to equip them for the tasks assigned. Knowing the grammar of a language is certainly a prerequisite for writing well, but it does not ensure it. Students should be carefully guided through the writing process, starting with word, then the sentence, and finally the paragraph. I will point out to some specific steps, that should be taken in the teaching of writing as a process, asserting that students should first be required to think about the topic on which they will write. They then must organize their thoughts and information, write a draft, and revise any section that needs it. The final stage is to edit the draft for submission to the teacher.. The new view, however, is that writing is no linear, it is recursive. Preparation for writing is as important as the act of writing, The evaluation grid is designed to measure four areas : comprehensibility, cohesiveness, information conveyed, and vocabulary. The weights assigned to each area may vary according to the course objectives and teacher preference.

I am going to share my knowledge and experience that I acquired during my learning course on writing skills at Saint Michael's College, Vermont, the USA. What students should be able to write at different levels of language acquisition. Writing activities at different levels, writing a summary, a paragraph of description, an essay etc.