

Supporting English Learners in Writing Workshop

Writing Workshop Structure	Possible challenges for ELs	Suggested differentiation strategies to support ELs
Minilesson	Too much teacher talk	 Use realia, gestures, pictures and/or graphics to make language comprehensible Make speaking very clear and explicit Establish routines that help ELs focus on content and language Be explicit in instruction Preteach the teaching point to scaffold understanding Reteach the teaching point to support understanding Provide multiple opportunities for turn and talk or active engagement
Independent Writing	Lack of support and feedback Absence of text examples that match student ZPD	 Provide mentor writing examples, touchstone texts, exemplars to support ELs linguistic needs and writing goals Allow beginning ELs to write in their native language Allow newcomer ELs to mirror teacher or mentor text writing Allow beginning and intermediate ELs to draw and label Support frequently with one on one conferring or small group instruction Pull small groups for shared writing to support language, grammar, and concepts of print
Partner Work	Partners are unsure what to do Limited talk time with partners	 Be intentional when assigning partners Support using anchor charts and sentence frames Support using structured conversations such as Talking Heads and Q Triple S A Provide opportunities for partner work throughout the writing process
Share	Not enough time to share Only a few students are asked to share	 Use share time as another means for student to student interaction (more participation) Support ELs with sentence frames aligned to language levels Randomize calling on students Provide ELs with rehearsal time before sharing whole group
Anchor Charts	Too many words Premade	 Label with plenty of graphics and pictures Keep icons consistent throughout the building (ex: a book is the same in your room and the library) Color code wording Write in a step-by-step format Keep charts up and available and refer to them frequently Provide smaller copies to ELs (artifact) Create with students

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