DEVELOPING STUDENTS' REASONING SKILLS THROUGH TEACHING WRITTEN ARGUMENTATIVE STATEMENTS IN ENGLISH

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Abstract: This article examines the development of students' reasoning skills in teaching English, with a particular focus on written statements. It explores how learners can be guided to construct logical arguments, express cause-and-effect relationships, and develop argumentative writing skills. The study highlights the role of modern pedagogical approaches, interactive methods, and practical activities in enhancing these competencies. As a result, effective strategies are proposed to improve students' critical thinking, coherence, and clarity in written communication.

Keywords: reasoning skills, written communication, argumentative writing, evidence-based writing, teaching English, critical thinking, cause-and-effect relationships, interactive methods, writing skills

The development of writing skills occupies a central place in the process of teaching English, as it enables students to express their ideas clearly, coherently, and logically. In particular, teaching written statements with elements of reasoning plays a significant role in enhancing learners' critical thinking abilities. Such forms of writing require students not only to present their opinions but also to justify them with relevant evidence, establish cause-and-effect relationships, and arrive at well-supported conclusions. As a result, students learn to construct their ideas in a structured and logical manner while improving their overall language proficiency.

The formation of reasoning-based writing skills should be organized progressively. At the initial stage, students can be encouraged to express simple opinions supported by basic reasons. As their proficiency develops, more complex tasks can be introduced, requiring learners to provide multiple arguments, compare different viewpoints, and synthesize information. It is essential to consider students' age, language level, and cognitive development when designing such activities, as these factors directly influence the effectiveness of the learning process.

The use of appropriate teaching methods is crucial in fostering these skills. Working with model texts allows students to understand the structure and organization of effective writing. Through guided analysis, learners can identify key elements such as the main claim, supporting evidence, and logical reasoning. This process helps them internalize the patterns of well-structured writing and apply them in their own work. In addition, discussion-based approaches and questioning techniques encourage active participation and stimulate independent thinking. By engaging in discussions, students learn to articulate and defend their viewpoints, which later facilitates their ability to express ideas in written form.

Another effective strategy is the use of graphic organizers, such as mind maps, charts, and diagrams. These tools help students organize their thoughts before writing and establish clear connections between ideas. As a result, their written work becomes more coherent and logically structured. Furthermore, peer review activities contribute significantly to the development of writing skills. By evaluating each other's work, students become more aware of common mistakes, learn to provide constructive feedback, and improve their own writing through reflection.

In classroom practice, it is important to provide students with a variety of writing tasks that promote reasoning. For example, students can be asked to support or oppose a given statement, write essays on real-life issues, or explain cause-and-effect relationships. Such tasks not only reinforce theoretical knowledge but also encourage students to apply their skills in meaningful contexts. Consequently, learners develop the ability to think independently, make informed judgments, and communicate effectively in written form.

Moreover, the integration of digital technologies into the teaching process enhances the development of writing skills. Online platforms and writing applications provide students with opportunities to practice writing independently, edit their work, and receive immediate feedback from teachers. This creates a more dynamic and interactive learning environment, which increases student motivation and engagement.

When assessing students' written work, it is important to go beyond grammatical accuracy and consider factors such as coherence, clarity, and the strength of arguments. A comprehensive approach to assessment ensures that students focus not only on language correctness but also on the logical organization and effectiveness of their ideas. Such an approach ultimately contributes to the development of both writing competence and critical thinking skills.

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