



TOOL // Primary Writing Wall

What is it used for?

The wall provides students with writing samples to compare against their own work as a means to self-assess their progress and identify next steps.

How do you use it?

When introducing a form of writing, the teacher and students together deconstruct a model to identify the characteristics and develop Success Criteria across categories for that particular writing form.

Then students are placed in small groups and given samples of writing that are mounted on bristle board and laminated. The samples reflect four levels of performance.

Students are asked to sort the samples according to the terms: Egg, Tadpole, Froglet and Frog. They are invited to think about what each term means, and why they feel a sample of writing reflects a particular term.

It is a good idea to use writing samples from students of a previous year so the sorting exercise is impersonal.

Next, the class decides on the next steps to move work from one level of performance to the next. A bulletin board is constructed that reflects the class thinking.

After students complete their first writing sample, they are asked to look at the board and think about which level best reflects their work. They are also asked to identify a next step that would help them move to the next level.

The process is repeated at different times of the year. However, teachers may want to vary the themes and terms that indicate performance levels. For example, a teacher may want to use a space theme, in which case the four performance levels could be Getting Ready, Blasting Off, Orbiting and Moon Landing.

This approach has been used successfully with grades one, two and three.

LEAP INTO WRITING

Egg

i lik fogs thay ar nis and




Tadpole

Frogs are cool. They eat bugs. They jump. They live in wet places. They are lots of colours.




Froglet

Oh Frog!

Frogs are amazing! Frogs live in wet places. They live in ponds and lakes. They live on land too. Frogs are lots of different colours and sizes. The smallest frog is as small as your fingernail. Coloured frogs usually mean they are poisonous. Frogs have webbed feet to help them swim in water. Frogs usually eat insects but some frogs even eat mice or small birds. I think frogs are amazing!




Frog

Lots of detail and descriptive language



Add more detail.



Scheduled greater detail, and action words. Connect with linker words.



Let's of detail and descriptive language.







Handwritten student work about frogs

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