

1. Title of the submission: Teaching Writing Effectively: My Journey with a 5th/6th Grade Class
2. Name of the author: Kendra L. Miller-Jones
3. Affiliations of the author: Alaska Pacific University
4. Address of the author: 4020 Romanzof Circle, Anchorage, AK 99517
5. E-mail address of the author: kenmar@gci.net
6. Abstract of paper:

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine the best practices in teaching standards-based writing and apply those strategies in order for me to become an effective teacher of writing. Literature that was reviewed included a variety of books and journal articles. Data collection involved semi-structured interviews with master teachers, teacher questionnaires, student questionnaires, standards-based writing lessons, student writing portfolios, observations, video taping, and a researcher journal. The discussion was driven by categories that depicted three themes: authentic personal connections, the writing environment, and six traits and rubrics related to evaluation and assessment. Results showed a distinct positive correlation between practices seen and reflected upon in the classroom to the information found in the literature. The action research cycle continued to evolve as implications for future research focuses on creating an authentic writing community based on personal connections, across the curriculum, while utilizing appropriate assessment over time in order for students to find success in developing their writing abilities.