The Effects of a structured-insightful approach upon the writing ability of limited-English proficient students (LEP 3)

Gwen P. Freeman

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ABSTRACT

THE EFFECTS OF A STRUCTURED INSIGHTFUL APPROACH UPON
THE WRITING ABILITY OF LIMITED-ENGLISH
PROFICIENT STUDENTS (LEP 3)

By

Gwen P. Freeman

B.S., Tuskegee Institute
M.A., San Francisco State University, 1977

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Rohnert Park, California

A Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of
The Requirements for the Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy

Walden University

August, 1985
THE EFFECTS OF A STRUCTURED-INSIGHTFUL APPROACH UPON
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By Gwen Freeman

ABSTRACT

This study examined the effects of a structured-insightful approach to teaching limited-English proficient (LEP) students to express themselves in writing. It sought to determine the effectiveness of this approach with a group, with boys or girls, and with which language it proved to be most effective.

The major purpose of this study was to seek methods and techniques that were designed to assist the LEP 3 students in expressing thoughts and ideas in writing with clarity, fluency, and effectiveness.

The population for this study consisted of thirty-five fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students who attended three elementary schools in the Santa Clara Unified School District. The major languages represented by these students were Korean, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. All students in both the experimental and control groups were
participants in the district's English Language Acquisition Program (ELA).

The students in the experimental groups met three times each week to participate in writing sessions taught by the writer. These students participated in the six phases of the structured-insightful approach to writing. The control group submitted writing samples (pre and post).

This investigation took place over a six month period. During months one and six, students submitted writing samples (pre and post testing). During months two through five, the students participated in writing sessions. The students pre and post writing samples, as well as ten submitted compositions were scored by two scorers who were trained by the writer in holistic scoring. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov one sample test was employed to test the hypotheses.

The findings from this study seem to indicate that:

1. The structured-insightful approach is effective for LEP 3 students as a group.
2. The structured-insightful approach is effective with girls in the experimental groups.
3. The structured-insightful approach is effective with the Vietnamese students in the experimental group.
4. Utilizing the structured-insightful approach, all students in the experimental groups made significant gains in their ability to express thoughts and ideas in writing.
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CHAPTER I

Introduction

If our culture is to have a literate populace, one of the necessary skills is writing proficiency. Writing is an essential component in the understanding and use of our language. Writing helps people understand, organize, and express their thoughts. Writing is an important tool and skill for communication. Writing contributes to the whole individual. . . . The responsibility for developing writing proficiency extends beyond the English classroom. The parent, the community, teachers in other disciplines . . . need to emphasize the importance of clear expression. (Committee on Writing, 1977)

In the past few years, the world has changed immensely. Among the many changes that have occurred are changes in the communication systems. This is the age of information, and students must be prepared for communication by every available means. Rose (1982) stated that "communication is the essence of education." It is the method by which thoughts, ideas, opinions and information are shared. Modern methods of communication have created greater awareness of daily encounters worldwide. The advances in modern communication have brought about changes, and have caused the world to appear more closely knit. In a brief period of time, the radio can send the human voice around the world. Voices can be heard around the world by telephone with the same degree of rapidity.
The computer is capable of processing information with great speed. Local, national and world news are presented in homes daily through televisions and newspapers.

Communication is a process that occurs from a personal to a worldwide level. Human activity depends a great deal upon giving and receiving information. Communication is a human activity that takes a variety of forms. Whatever the method used, it is a vital part of daily life. Various means of communication include gestures, facial expressions and tones of voice used in sharing feelings, as well as different kinds of information. Pictures and symbols are used to convey messages; however, words are the most effective exemplar that is useful in promoting effective communication. The written word can provide a more lasting method of communicating experiences, discussing scientific theories, or recording history. It is the most efficient method of communicating in a permanent form. As time passes and changes occur in language, words also change in meaning and significance. However, the means of communicating in permanent form, writing is experiencing its greatest significance ever. The importance of efficacy in writing by children, as well as adults is frequently noted in the media, by employers, and by educators whose responsibilities include planning strategies for excellence in communication skills.
Since the purpose of writing is to communicate, one of the goals of education is to develop students' ability to express their ideas and thoughts in writing with ease and clarity. Success in writing emerges as students are guided through the stages of the writing process step by step. It is vital that students have a functional understanding of the writing process. Writing is a complex process, and students can be guided to build skills developmentally. The emergence in today's schools of students from various parts of the world with varying dialects, cultures and educational backgrounds creates a demand for new and different methods of instruction in writing. These students along with native English speakers can learn to write clearly and effectively when skills are presented gradually with clarification of the process.

Understanding that language changes is important for children. Correctness is not arbitrary, its purpose is clarity. However, it is important to recognize that background, experience and appropriateness determine how language is used. Children and teachers become more accepting of expressions that differ from their own when they realize that language reflects change in the world. Language is always changing. Words, like fashions, have their day, and as the world changes, so do the expressions of its people. (Rose, 1982)

The December, 1975, issue of Newsweek discussed the writing crisis and brought attention to the problems facing students as they attempted to weave through the stages of writing. As all facets of the community, schools and
society begin to take a closer look and more critical view of writing, many questions were being asked regarding writing instruction. Questions are being asked concerning most effective methods to use in teaching, ways to recognize readiness for writing, where instruction should begin, what the various stages are, in what order these stages should be presented, when should grammar be presented and how often students should be required to write. In consideration of the needs of the newly-arriving students, new questions are being asked regarding best techniques for assisting limited-English speaking students to meet with success in writing.

Neill (1982) reported that writing is "the most neglected of the big three basic skills." She gave as reasons for this phenomenon the facts that writing is the most difficult thing students are asked to do in school, and research in writing instruction is still in its "infancy." Research concerning the writing of the limited-English speaking student is almost nonexistent; however, the research that does exist seems to indicate that limited-English speaking students acquire writing skills by many of the same methods being presented to their English-speaking classmates.
It is through writing that all students record what they have learned. Bullock discussed the various roles students portray as they write. He stated that:

1. When a child writes autobiographically, he offers his experience as a basis for forming a relationship of mutual interest and trust with the reader he has in mind. . . .
2. When a child writes in the spectator role . . . he exposes, by what he chooses to write about and the way he presents it, some part of his system of values. . . .
3. In offering his feelings and beliefs, the child is in fact presenting himself in the light he would like to be seen in; acceptance of what he offers confirms for him that picture, and this is probably the deepest kind of satisfaction to be had from the whole process. . . . (Bullock, 1975)

Writing, the most complex form of communication, encompasses many previously learned skills of listening, speaking and reading, and is a process which emerges developmentally from birth. Students begin at an early age preparing for the roles discussed by Bullock. As infants, children's first understandings are developed as they listen to words and conversations of families and friends. They soon begin to form associations between words and objects, and later transfer this skill to speaking. Beginning speech is brief; however, it is filled with meaning. As speech develops, vocabulary becomes enhanced, and reading skills are developed. Reading skills evolve, bringing forth many ideas that prepare students for writing. Students put to use the skills developed in listening, speaking and reading.
while actively involved in the various stages of the writing process. It is through writing that children make discoveries about themselves and their world.

The desire to write goes one step beyond that of merely wishing to communicate. It allows us to share our knowledge, ideas and feelings with the rest of the world. Writing also gives us the opportunity of becoming what we are, or may be. In learning to write, we must develop good habits as in learning to speak and to read. (Samuelson, 1976)

The ability to express ideas effectively in writing has its beginning in the early stages of life. In childhood, as well as adulthood, a great deal of our time is spent listening. Listening is a means of receiving information useful in the formation of ideas, thoughts, and feelings. It is also the skill useful in helping the limited-English proficient student (LEP) process and make sense of information. The LEP student experiences a "silent period" after which, just as the English-only (EO) student, they begin to speak and experiment with the ideas developed through listening. This experimentation of ideas flows into reading, a process that further stimulates LEP and EO students' thoughts and ideas. It encourages them to internalize information gathered in the listening-speaking stages; and makes preparation for writing.

English as a second language is a method of instruction designed for development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English for
non-English or limited-English speakers. The instruction is structured for preparing the students for learning experiences in the regular classroom and regular school programs. Some of the goals are:

1. To offer a curriculum that meets the diverse needs of pupils with different languages and cultural orientations in order to permit them to:
   - Preserve and strengthen their self-images and sense of dignity through appropriate and meaningful instructional programs.
   - Develop pride in self, school, and community.

2. To develop in each student the ability to maximize his potential as an individual, as a learner and as a citizen in a multilingual, multicultural society. (Glatthorn, 1981)

Writing skills evolve through developmental stages for all students. When skills are presented as students demonstrate the need for them, they learn the stages of the writing process. Through the stages of the writing process, they are presented ideas and are involved in experiences which can later be expressed clearly, effectively, and interestingly in writing. They may be lead to value writing, and become knowledgeable, skillful, and appreciative of the writing process. Teaching students to write can be a very difficult assignment, and changing populations in our schools demand a change in methods and techniques designed to teach students to express themselves in writing. When the assigned writing tasks grow out of students' needs, interest, and desires, they may be lead to participate enthusiastically in the activities. These can
be rewarding experiences for both the students and teachers. Consequently, there needs to be a willingness on the part of educators to make changes in instructional methods and techniques.

... What does change are the answers to the questions who teaches what to whom and for what purpose. ... What also changes are the combinations and constellations of classroom techniques into the various methods, as well as the theories which attempt to account for these methods. While it is true that most classroom techniques may have been tried at one time or another, the particular context in which they are tried and the rationale for trying them are different. (Poulston, 1980)

The Problem Statement

In the last five years, many new students enrolling in the Santa Clara Unified School District's elementary schools were of non-English or limited-English speaking ability. These students participated in the district's English Language Acquisition Program. Many progressed well in listening and speaking; however reading and writing prove to be the most difficult of the language arts skills to master. As the limited-English speaking students progress through the program, they demonstrate lack of proficiency in the area of writing. There is a need for a writing program designed to assist advanced limited-English proficient students in expressing ideas in writing clearly and effectively. Therefore, this study proposed to
identify an effective technique for teaching writing to limited-English proficient students.

Null Hypothesis
The structured-insightful approach to teaching limited-English proficient students to express themselves in writing is no more or nor less effective than a less structured method for the students in this investigation.

Hypothesis
In this investigation, there is a significant difference in the ability of limited-English proficient students to express themselves in writing which depends upon whether they were exposed to the structured-insightful approach to teaching.

Questions to be Answered
1. Is the structured-insightful method more effective in teaching LEP students to express themselves in writing than a less structured more informal method?
2. Is the structured-insightful method more effective with students as a group?
3. Is the structured-insightful method more effective with boys than with girls?
4. With which language group is the structured-insightful method most effective?
5. At which grade level is the structured-insightful method most effective?

Tests to be Used

The following tests were used in this study:

1. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov One Sample Test: A test of goodness of fit. . . . It is concerned with the degree of agreement between the distribution of a set of sample values (observed scores) and some specified theoretical distribution. It determines whether the scores in the sample can reasonably be thought to have come from a population having the theoretical distribution. (Siegel, 1956)

2. Significance Level: Let \( \alpha = .05 \), \( N = \) the number

3. Histogram Tables: comparing groups

Background

It was the primeval urge to record human experience and preserve the story of man's adventures that gave impetus to the development of writing and bridged the gap between prehistoric dependence on lore, legend, pictures, and artifacts, and the beginning of recorded history. Through all the intervening centuries, writing and developments based upon writing have marked historical change and societal advance. The invention of movable type did not make writing obsolete. Instead, it was a spur to writing and to learning, and an accelerating influence in the spread of knowledge through the written word. (Petty, 1968)

Meaningful and purposeful writing is one of the most significant skills students need to acquire in school.

Yet, educators are confronted daily with criticisms of students' ability to communicate effectively in writing.
These criticisms are rendered by parents, teachers, local and state leaders, employers, as well as students, who themselves recognize their inability to express their points of view in written form. In the media, one can note reports of continually failing scores on achievement tests in the area of writing. Although numerous changes have taken place in our communications systems, it is through writing that these students are afforded the opportunity to put into practice previously learned skills of listening, speaking, and reading. It provides a means by which students are given a vehicle for making discoveries that they have ideas worthy of print. They may discover that they are capable of expressing ideas intelligently in writing. They may discover that writing is a kind of sharing, and that what they write can be read by others who will learn from their thoughts.

As a result of immigration into the United States of families from all parts of the world, the Santa Clara Unified School District has experienced a drastic change in its student population. Many of these are non-English speaking or limited-English speaking students. At the present time, approximately 1400 of these students are enrolled, representing approximately 11 percent of the total district population. At the time of enrollment, parents or guardians complete a Home Language Survey (HLS).
If any language other than English is listed on the survey, the students are administered the Language Assessment Scale I (LAS I) for students in grades three, four, and five. Students in grades six through twelve are administered the Language Assessment Scale II (LAS II). Students scoring at levels one, two, or three become participants in the English Language Acquisition Program at beginning (LEP 1), intermediate (LEP 2), or advanced (LEP 3) levels respectively. These students are also given a primary language test to determine proficiency levels in their primary language. Individual Learning Plans (ILP) are then developed for these students. Students who score at levels four or five are considered fluent-English proficient (FEP). They are administered the district Reading and Writing Assessment to determine their competence in reading and writing. Scores of one, two, or three in reading and writing initiates assistance in these areas in the ELA program. Students scoring at levels four or five are classified as FEP and receive no additional instruction in English. In order to be placed in the regular classroom program or to be reclassified from the ELA program, students in grades, three, four, five, or six must meet the following criteria:

1. A score of four or five on the LAS test
2. Scoring at or above the 36th percentile on a standardized test
3. A score of level four or five on the District Reading and Writing Assessment tests
4. Scores on the Student Oral Language Observation Matrix (SOLOM) of:
   - Level four out of five in comprehension
   - Level four out of five in fluency
   - Level four out of five in vocabulary
   - Level three out of five in pronunciation
   - Level four out of five in grammar
5. Parent consultation

   Students progress from one level to another based on the above criteria. They are assessed at the end of each year to determine whether reclassification is possible, however, the students remain in the ELA program for several years due to lack of proficiency in reading and writing. New programs for developing proficiency in reading have been obtained and devised by the school district. A greater number of students are assessed at scores of four or five in reading than in writing; therefore, the area of greatest need at this time is a program or specific approach designed to assist the LEP students in expressing their ideas fluently and effectively in writing.
Significance

Students are faced with daily encounters where communication through writing is demanded. It is also agreed by educators, the community, and society as a whole, that learning the skill of writing and to express ideas clearly, effectively, and fluently is significant. The LEP student is expected to develop this skill as a measure of success in school. As a graduation requirement, these students are expected to succeed on the district writing assessment, as well as the high school writing competency examination.

This study was significant in that many approaches and techniques designed to teach students to express themselves in writing were presented. These approaches included techniques for assisting students who have apprehensions about writing, the developmental stages of the process, and techniques for helping students realize that they have ideas, and that these ideas can be expressed clearly and fluently. Most significantly, this study developed a specific technique designed to assist the LEP student in successfully expressing thoughts in writing. This study will prove to be important to teachers, in both elementary and secondary schools, in that methods created to help students recognize the personal value of writing were presented. It will prove to be of importance to
trainers of preservice teachers in that the techniques for teaching the LEP student are greatly needed at this time. Consequently, this study will prove to be of great importance to all teachers of LEP students throughout the country and at all levels of education in that the processes for presenting and rendering these students successful in writing were presented.

Additionally, this study included a literature review of recent research in the area of writing and writing instruction, a summary of research in instructing the LEP student in writing, some discussion of language, and how it changes, the change theories governing these language changes, common aspects noted among the various effective techniques, and recommendations for further research.

**Purpose**

Students of limited-English ability or limited-English proficient (LEP) lack skills necessary for expressing ideas effectively and clearly in writing. This prevents many such students in the Santa Clara Unified School District's English Language Acquisition Program from being reclassified and placed in the regular school program. There is a great need for a writing program designed to assist these students in developing the
confidence, experience, skills, and knowledge of the writing process that will assure their success in writing in all subjects.

Zamel has stated that writing is the process through which meaning is created, and she emphasized the importance of generating, formulating, and refining ideas. She reported that:

Research on ESL composition is almost negligible. Those few studies that do exist are directed toward investigating the effects of certain types of writing practice on compositions, thereby still indicating a concern with product. (Zamel, 1982)

Therefore, it is the purpose of this study to present a structured-insightful technique designed to encourage the limited-English proficient students to express thoughts, ideas, and feelings in writing clearly, fluently, and effectively. The major goal of the English Language Acquisition Program is to prepare these students for participation in the regular classroom and have them perform similar tasks at satisfactory or competent levels. The aim of this proposed technique is to assist these students in reaching this goal.

Design and Methodology

A change in the student population of the Santa Clara Unified School District has created the necessity for changes in methods of instruction for newly enrolled
students. Many new students are of non-English or limited-English speaking ability. These students are of various cultures and educational backgrounds. They represent approximately fifty languages and dialects. There is a great need for techniques created to assist these students in the area of writing.

Utilizing a structured-insightful technique designed by the writer to help non-English proficient (NEP) and limited-English proficient (LEP) students to express themselves in writing, this research was designed as follows:

**Six Stages of the Insightful Composing Process:**

1. **Experiencing** - As students move to the advanced levels of the ELA program, they remain there due to their inability to express ideas in writing. Since students in this group are of varying backgrounds, different levels of education, and different cultures, the first step is to provide for the students a common experience upon which they may interact. The experience may begin at the concrete level using objects and moving gradually to the abstract level as the students progress through the composing process.

2. **Preplanning** - During the preplanning stage, students were involved in clustering, mind-mapping, and
other brainstorming activities generating ideas and developing vocabulary for use during the act of writing.

3. **Writing** - Students were given time for writing and were strongly encouraged to make use of vocabulary developed during brainstorming, as well as to seek new vocabulary words.

4. **Revising** - Students were encouraged to rethink and recreate the first draft of the writing. At this time students were encouraged to include new thoughts, ideas, and feelings regarding their writing.

5. **Rewriting** - Students were encouraged to rewrite and present a polished, complete piece of writing.

6. **Sharing** - Students were encouraged to share their completed work. Examples of this encouragement were reading the work to the class, having the teacher read the work to the class, having the work displayed on the bulletin board, having the work displayed in other parts of the school, having the work bound into a child-authored book, presenting the book at the Santa Clara Unified School District's Young Writers' Exposition, presenting the book at the Santa Clara County Young Authors' Fair or having the work included in the *Santa Clara Unified School District Young Writers' Anthology*. 
Time Schedule

Month One - Students submitted samples using the title, "My Favorite Place."

Month Two - Students participated in a writing class taught by the writer three times each week using the following schedule:

Day 1 - Experiencing and preplanning
Day 2 - Writing and revising
Day 3 - Rewriting and sharing

Months Three, Four, and Five - Students continued writing exercises

Month Six - Students presented writing samples.

Population

The population for this study consisted of approximately fifty-six advanced limited-English proficient students (LEP 3) assessed as LEP 3 by the District Language Assessment Scale (LAS). The students were enrolled in three of the Santa Clara Unified School District's elementary schools: Bowers, Bracher, and Montague. The students were in grades four, five, and six, and represented the major languages and cultures in the district: Vietnamese, Filipino, and Korean. The twelve students at Bowers School represented group one, the thirteen students
at Montague School represented group two, and the ten students at Bracher School represented the control group.

**Scoring**

Students' polished, completed, final copies were scored holistically by two trained scorers. All writing completed by the students was kept in writing folders for review of general progress. The completed compositions were rated in relation to the others in the group using a scale of one to four. The ratings were based on the following aspects:

1. Content
2. Organization
3. Expression
4. Mechanics

**Opinionnaire**

Students completed an opinionnaire designed to elicit from each student opinions regarding techniques most beneficial to them in completing writing projects, their understanding of the importance of audience and purpose in writing, and subjects they especially enjoy expressing in writing. The results of the opinionnaire were useful to the author in preparing writing lessons for the
experimental groups, and to this study in presenting the students' opinions regarding writing, writing instruction, and subject choice.
CHAPTER II

Introduction

Today, writing and its importance as an essential lifetime skill are being looked at very closely by both the public and the professional educator. Questions about how writing is taught and what practices are most successful are being posed as the quest for competencies in the basic skills continue. (Glatthorn, 1981)

The actual act of involvement in writing can be a very frustrating activity. Terms such as: "blank page syndrome," "writers' block," and "writers' dilemma" are sometimes used to describe the behaviors and feelings demonstrated by those who make unsuccessful attempts at writing. Most teachers and students wish to become better writers and learn the processes that will help them to express ideas and thoughts distinctly. This goal can be achieved as they participate and become totally involved in the composing process. In this chapter, the writer will discuss the composing process, various techniques designed to encourage successful writing experiences, the importance of experiences in composing, means by which to determine student readiness for writing, the importance of audience and purpose in writing, recent research and recent findings regarding the ESL student and writing.
Glatthorn reported that not all authorities agree on the steps in the composing process. They differ as to how they conceptualize the process; but they agree about the following general principles:

1. The composing process is complex, involving memory, cognition, language, and psychomotor behavior.
2. The composing process is multiphased, involving several different stages and many subprocesses.
3. The process seems recursive and interactive, the stages overlap, relate closely to each other and affect each other. (Glatthorn, 1980)

It is vitally important that students, as well as teachers, acquire a deep understanding of the composing process. An understanding will be most helpful in rendering the act of composing an accomplishable task. It will also provide the means by which any student of writing, at any level of education, can move through the process with ease and great success. It is when the phases of the composing process are recognized and understood that the writer is provided the tools necessary for writing clearly, fluently and effectively.

DiStefano, Haley-James, Glatthorn, Rose, and Stewig have discussed the composing process and the importance of having an understanding of its phases. DiStefano discussed the stages of the writing process and stated that:

... Another characteristic of the writing process is that the stages are recursive rather than linear and sometimes they overlap... The process is one of
getting ideas down on paper, checking them out with someone else and rewriting so the message is clear and coherent to the intended reader. (Distefano, 1984)

Haley-James stated that students should learn the major stages of pre-writing, writing, revision, and post-writing. She continued by stating that:

In the pre-writing stage, the writer must identify a purpose, select a specific topic, identify the audience, determine the type of information needed and decide on an organizational plan. The pre-writing stage is a thinking stage. A student should engage in brainstorming, reading, discussion and other background building activities before and during this stage. . . . Oral language activities should both precede and occur during writing. . . . Students write more effectively when they sense a need to write for a specific purpose or audience; further a variety of real audiences is important to their development as writers. (Haley-James, 1981)

Rose stated that the stages of the composing process are: pre-composing, composing and rewriting.

She stated that:

. . . The pre-composing stage is the stage in which the writer gets his or her thoughts together. The composing stage is the stage in which writing occurs, the setting down of ideas on paper. At this stage the writer may be guided by the teacher. The rewriting stage is the stage in which the writer proofreads, edits, revises and rewrites, and in many cases re-expresses aspects of the pre-composing stage. (Rose, 1982)

Stewig emphasized that each lesson strategy must be "custom tailored" to the needs of a particular group of students. He offered these steps in the process:
1. Sharing the material (literature input)
2. Discussing the material (in terms of the intent of the lesson)
3. Presenting the writing problem (describe the problem very exactly to the students)
4. The writing task (teacher is available to answer questions)
5. Sharing the composition
6. Editing (rearranging thoughts to make sense) (Stewig, 1980)

The following model for successful writing experiences was presented at the South Bay Writing Project Summer Institute at San Jose State University in 1980:

1. State clearly what you are going to have students do.
2. Provide a model of the activity.
3. Elicit oral responses/ideas from students.
4. Write a group piece.
5. Have students write their individual assignments.
6. Share the students' writing.
7. Provide meaningful feedback to acknowledge the students' efforts. (South Bay Writing Project, 1980)

Norton suggested that the following instructional sequence be used for giving students opportunities to write successfully:

1. A stimulation-motivational phase to heighten interest, expand ideas, and establish the purpose for writing, and audience to be addressed.
2. Oral exchange of ideas to encourage discussion during and after stimulation activity.
3. A composing period where students write or dictate stories.
4. A sharing period.
5. Post-composing activities where the teacher interacts with the students, helps them evaluate their writing, and work on demonstrated deficiencies. (Norton, 1981)
The writer suggests that the composing process consists of six interlocking links where each is interdependent for assurance of effectiveness, clarity and success in writing:

1. Experiencing
2. Pre-planning
3. Writing
4. Revising
5. Rewriting
6. Sharing

Writing grows out of experience, and it is important that young children encounter numerous and varied experiences. These experiences must be continuous and frequent so that feelings, ideas and opinions are formulated. They must begin at the early stages of life in preparation for expressing thoughts in speech. When a child has opportunities to become totally involved in his or her world, this becomes a part of the child and can later be communicated in some form. The child internalizes and becomes a part of the experiences that are encountered with enthusiasm, and those that are made meaningful to him or her.

During the pre-planning phase of the composing process, the students will find reading to be a beneficial activity. An enthusiastic reader finds that writing
activities progress smoothly and pleasantly. Students who have not progressed to the reading stage will benefit by having teachers read to them on a daily basis from a variety of kinds of literature. During the pre-planning stage, the students may engage in a brainstorming or clustering activity to generate ideas, increase vocabulary, and start a flow of ideas.

Actually getting thoughts on paper, writing, can be the most difficult phase of the composing process; however, the end results can provide a great degree of pleasure for both the teacher and students. During this phase the teacher's role is to serve as facilitator and guide, to assist in clarifying ideas, and providing help as students feel the need and request it. It is a phase which may require a substantial amount of time to complete. The time element will prove to be significant in students' expressing their ideas freely and clearly. Students must have the opportunity to put thoughts together, to reflect upon a subject, and experiment with previously learned skills.

Revising the completed project gives the students the opportunity to rethink, reorganize, and restate information. It is this phase which offers students possibilities to state ideas in different terms, express feelings more clearly, and correct errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar. The revision may take place in a
student-teacher conference, with a writing partner, or in a small group. This activity can be followed by rewriting where the emphasis is neatness and appearance.

One of the most significant aspects of the composing process is sharing. Students are more likely to be encouraged to take pride in their writing, develop an appreciation for the writing process, and put forth best effort when they are aware of the fact that their work will be shared with a partner, a small group, the whole class, in a school publication, in student-authored books or by display. Publication of student work leaves the lasting impression that what is written is important. It increases self-esteem, improves writing skills and increases the desire for writing experiences.

As noted by all of the above authors, writing is an essential skill that is learned in closely related stages or phases. All students of writing need to have some level of understanding of each of the phases of the composing process in order to express thoughts and ideas and meet with success in writing. Students are sure to make outstanding achievements in writing when they receive assistance as they recognize the need for it, and are aware of the fact that someone will read, enjoy and learn from what they have written. This writing also must take place in a
comfortable, non-threatening, encouraging environment.

Kean stated that:

... The environment for writing in schools provide flexible time, flexible space, flexible organization and easy access to equipment and reference materials ... Students need to write regularly, but the time arrangement should be as flexible as possible given the constraints imposed by scheduling both inside and outside the classroom. (Kean, 1983)

All writing is for the purpose of communicating an author's message. This message can be conveyed fluently when the author demonstrates understanding of the process, moves through each phase with confidence, and recognizes the importance of remembering the purpose and audience when writing.

**Experience**

Students convey messages in writing based upon previous experiences. Varying and continuous experiences are a necessary ingredient in promoting good writers.

Burns, Shane, Rubin, and Burrows discussed the importance of experience as students undertake the task of expressing ideas in writing. Burns attributes students' best writing to either personal or vicarious experiences which assist them in creating ideas. She reported that:

... Children do their best writing when they feel something intensely, when they describe their own ideas and thoughts, and when their writing grows out of direct sensory experiences. They are most successful if they have some kind of structure around which they can create an idea or story. ... (Burns, 1980)
Shane suggested that many diverse means lead students' readiness for writing. He recommends using words in the classroom which will expand each student's "stock of meaning and concepts." He also recommends saying different things in different ways and encouraging children to bring to class objects that will "stimulate conversation and build vocabulary." He stated:

Since every child has a unique background of experience which has helped to make him what he is, every child has a unique potential for creative expression. This potential is most likely nourished and harvested. (Shane, 1973)

Rubin discussed the necessary ingredients for writing and the importance of many opportunities for writing experiences. She emphasized that:

Experiencing, getting in touch with one's feelings, and having many opportunities to write are necessary ingredients for writing. Children need a rich and varied literary environment to which they can add their first-hand knowledge and experience. (Rubin, 1980)

In a discussion of what children write about, Burrows emphasized that:

... If he writes about himself, he cannot write well about anything that has not yet become a part of that self. Only when the experience has had time to sink into deeper levels of a child's consciousness and there be intermingling with the residue of other experiences and other meanings, do they become the stuff from which has imaginings and interpretations are fashioned. (Burrows, 1964)

As students in English as a Second Language programs begin to approach the task of writing, experience
plays a major role in their success. Limited-English pro-
ficient students (LEP), having recently acquired or who are
in the process of acquiring a new language, need to have
things to write about, and these subjects must fall within
the student's knowledge range. Allen defined writing as
"purposeful selection and organization of experience."
This includes thoughts, facts, opinions or ideas acquired
first-hand, "direct perceptions," or second-hand, "through
reading or hearsay." Experiences provided for LEP students
or those where they are encouraged to provide materials for
sharing, can be useful when they consist of concrete
objects. The objects may be provided by the teacher or the
students. This encourages meaningful, sensory experiences
much needed in creating lasting impressions. It also pro-
vides for students of varying backgrounds and cultures a
common experience which will lead to group discussion,
interaction, and vocabulary building desirable in encour-
aging ideas for writing.

Fisher discussed the significance of organizing
experiences and rendering them more meaningful. She
emphasized that:

All writers, children or adults, need to believe that
they have something worth saying before they will care
enough to set down their feelings. In order to achieve
belief, writers need a perspective on experience, a way
of organizing or viewing them, that furnishes insight
which can promote pleasure in writing. The task for the
teacher, therefore, is to help children find ways of looking at their experiences that will stimulate their desire for experience. (Fisher, 1977)

Students limited in English, as well as native English speakers of English, need to be made to realize that they have ideas that can be expressed in writing and are worth of print. It is numerous experiences that help students in developing the confidence desirable in promoting successful attempts at putting feelings and thoughts in writing. The experiences may be brief, but should center about the needs, desires and interests of the students. They should also be frequent and continuous, consequently, encouraging thoughts, ideas and opinions that can be expressed clearly and fluently in writing.

Manageri stressed the importance of frequent and interesting experiences and reported that:

Effective communication occurs only after two criteria have been met. First, the writers have experienced something they want to share, and second they have acquired the necessary skill to write so that others can read it with comprehension. (Manageri, 1981)

If students are to be successful in writing and be lead to value it as a lifetime skill, they must be assured of the personal value of communicating ideas, thoughts and feelings in writing. Elmore stated that writing is a basic form of communication and that efforts to teach it will be successful when they:
As students enter school, they bring with them some degree of language and experiences. It would be worthwhile to make use of these experiences and assist students in viewing more clearly the world they know through writing. From this point, new experiences may be introduced extending further their present knowledge and providing the confidence and vocabulary essential in expressing reactions clearly and fluently. Jacobs stated that "words grow out of human experience," and students can be encouraged to formulate ideas based on experiences they have had or are presently having. They may put to use the words or vocabulary that grows out of the experiences to use as they express ideas in writing.

**Vocabulary**

Words are the tools of good thinking and the necessary equipment needed by all for communication. Through words students can transmit experiences, beliefs and knowledge. The more words students have at their command, the clearer and more accurate their thinking will be. (Smith, 1980)

One of the most significant tools useful in clear, effective expression of thought is vocabulary. Providing students with the vocabulary related to a given topic through shared experiences and brainstorming activities
assures fluency in writing. Vocabulary is vital in
directing the writer's thinking and assists in focusing
upon the language of a subject. Once students understand
the vocabulary of a subject their self-esteem and confi-
dence are enhanced which leads to a willingness to under-
take the task of writing. Smith stated reasons why we
should stress vocabulary:

It is important to note that the smallest vocabulary of
both adults and children is the writing vocabulary.
This is probably true because children never, and adults
rarely, write words they do not say. All this bears
significance when we realize that we must place a great
deal of stress on the oral vocabulary for effective
reading and writing. (Smith, 1980)

The vocabulary of the students' writing topics can
be stressed through brainstorming activities. During these
activities, lead by the teacher, students begin with a
central idea or focus word and list the related words that
come to their minds. This is an excellent activity for
building words and categories for use in upcoming writing
activities. Students learn to work cooperatively, share
ideas, and that one idea may lead to another. The words
generated during this exercise are useful in assisting
students in moving to a great start in putting their
thoughts on paper. Rubin stated that brainstorming is an
excellent way to "break the ice, help students to work
together and create an atmosphere conducive to
creativity." She gives the following principles of brainstorming:

1. Anything goes
2. No criticisms
3. Build on another's ideas (Rubin, 1980)

She views brainstorming as a method of stretching students' imaginations. This is a necessary ingredient if students are to learn to communicate knowledge and reactions in writing. It provides a focal point which will help students begin with a great start and express ideas fluently. It also assures success in first attempts at composing.

Rico spoke of writing naturally and defined natural writing as "self-definition of what you know, what you discover, and what you wonder about. . . ." She discussed the use of a similar activity designed to generate words called "clustering." The general principles of clustering are:

To create a cluster, you begin with a nucleus word, circled on a fresh page. Now you simply let go and begin to flow with any current connections that come into your head. Write down rapidly, each in its own circle, radiating outward from the center in any direction they want to go. Connect each new word or phrase with a line to the preceding circle. When something new and different strikes you, begin at the nucleus and radiate outward until those associations reexhausted. (Rico, 1983)
Brainstorming and clustering offer students a pleasurable method of obtaining words needed to begin a flow of ideas. Following, the students are prepared for beginning writing based on the topic, focus or nucleus word. Rico stated that clustering always "generated words that possess the quality of wholeness. . . ." As students focus upon the words generated through these exercises, they can be lead to visualize the progress of the completed piece of writing, begin with enthusiasm, and find the process useful in meeting with success. Anderson discussed the powerfulness of vocabulary and emphasized that:

Vocabulary is increased and power of expression heightened when pupils are helped to see the importance of contrasting words and ideas. . . . When writing is an opportunity to reveal one's feelings and imagination without criticism and with the assurance of respectful listeners, the pupil's picture of himself is enhanced. (Anderson, 1979)

Readiness for Writing

Preparing students for the actual act of writing should be one of the major goals of the writing teacher. This can be accomplished through development of both students' oral and written vocabularies. In the beginning stages, the teacher will find that reading a variety of literature to students on a daily basis to be greatly beneficial. It is through listening to the various words
and patterns of language that students get a feeling for the language and how it is put together. This is especially true for the LEP students who may be hearing the language patterns for the first time. Rose discussed the factors that contribute to readiness for writing:

Children faced with the task of learning to write have to be mature enough to begin the process. One educator has identified three factors that contribute to readiness for writing: (1) a basic oral vocabulary and an ability to use words in the major syntactic patterns, (2) an understanding of the basic concepts that underlie the composing process: focus on a main idea, logical development, support and purpose, (3) competence ensuing the basic composing processes of searching, reflecting, selecting, writing and revising. (Rose, 1980)

The preparation of LEP students for expressing ideas in writing requires time for allowing the students to develop an "ear" for the English language. As they listen to various kinds of literature and engage in vocabulary building activities, they are being prepared for beginning writing activities. They are also being provided the vocabulary that will be useful in writing in a meaningful way. The writing may flow more clearly and fluently when it centers about the experiences, interests and desires of the students. Stewig emphasized that:

Teachers who read to boys and girls . . . will in the process expose them to the full beauty and flavor of the English language. . . . Indeed, children often recognize immediately a particular melodious, rhythmic or emotional word or phrase . . . and thousands of such language elements have been memorized instantly by children. (Stewig, 1983)
Burns discussed the process of students learning to compose. He discusses early experiences and the importance of making students accurately aware of their world. He reported that:

Learning to compose is a long and difficult process which must be started at the earlier level. Dictating stories and experiences to a teacher who records them on paper or charts is the beginning of a series of steps that eventually culminates in independent writing. Children must be acutely and accurately aware of their world and be able to describe it precisely, learn to produce interesting beginnings and conclusions, use words which make characters real and vivid... use a variety of types of words and sentences throughout the body of the composition which make for interest. (Burns, 1979)

When students listen to many different kinds of literature being read to them by the teacher, observe the teacher record their reactions to them on paper or charts; they are being prepared for independent writing. The teacher may also record students' accounts of their personal experiences or experiences presented in the classroom by the teacher. The thoughts, ideas and feelings of students take on a special significance when they see their words in print. They develop the desire and appreciation for writing, which creates the desire for writing experiences.

Shane answered the question, "What influences the child's readiness for developing language skills?" and he listed diverse means:
1. Use words in the classroom which will expand each child's stock of meaning and concepts. Say the same or similar things in different ways. In so far as possible, associate these words with objects and situations.

2. Read stories frequently. Take time to explain and talk about words used by the author which may need interpretation.

3. Bring in and encourage children to bring to the classroom objects of interest that stimulate conversation and build vocabularies. (Shane, 1973)

All students have the potential for communication. They are of varying backgrounds and have different experiences daily that may lead to expressions for writing. They will need encouragement to take a pencil in their hands and express their thoughts, describe their actions in a past experience, or share their knowledge of a subject. However, through numerous opportunities to engage in the writing process, readiness for the act of writing will become a reality for students.

Nichols stated that the purpose of writing is to "make the message clear." Students write for a wide range of purposes: to inform, to persuade, to express themselves, to explore, to clarify thinking and to share knowledge. Consequently, the purpose of all writing should be stated clearly at the outset of the lesson, and students should be well aware of the purpose of their writing.

Allen stated that:

Every time there is a writing experience, children must see a purpose for writing. They must feel that they have something to say on the topic, and must want to do
the writing. In other words, children should not be asked to write unless the purpose for it is clear to them and genuine use is to be made of the writing. (Allen, 1976)

Krenin emphasized the benefits of students' understanding the purpose for whatever they write. She stressed the fact that:

Students should always be told the purpose of whatever they are doing. They should understand the intent of the lesson. By knowing why they are doing what they are doing what they are doing students will be able to generalize and to apply the skills being learned to situations where those skills are needed. They will conceptualize rather than memorize. (Krenin, 1982)

In an article entitled, "Seven Reasons Why Children Should Write Stories," Tompkins presented seven purposes for writing and ways students benefit from these activities.

Reasons why children should write:
1. To entertain - Children write stories . . . to extend themselves as persons and to hold an audience's pleased attention . . .
2. To foster artistic expression - . . . One important reason to write in real life is to aesthetically order the components of existence . . . the ordering of experiences, to create stories, poems, and other forms of imaginative expression is a kind of artistic expression . . .
3. To explore the functions and values of writing - through writing children explore the functions and value of writing in order to become more flexible writers . . .
4. To stimulate imagination - Children tell and write stories because stories represent meaning and reflect imagination, and meaning and imagination are the lifeblood of the mind . . .
5. To clarify thinking - . . . In the process of attempting to get their ideas out on paper so they can be shared with others, children clarify their thinking.
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5. To search for identity - ... childen's personal discovery and search for identity is another reason why they should write stories . . . .

7. To learn to read and write - Having children write stories is a means of teaching them to write and to read. . . (Tompkins, 1982)

Byrne emphasized the various "pedagogical purposes" of writing and discussed the importance of writing as evidence that students are making progress. He stated that:

Writing serves a variety of pedagogical purposes:
(1) practice of some form of writing enables us to provide for different learning styles and needs . . .
(2) written work serves to provide the learners with some tangible evidence that they are making progress in language, (3) exposure to language through more than one medium is likely to be more effective than relying on a single medium alone. (Byrne, 1979)

A meaningful purpose that is made explicit to students is a crucial part of any writing program. This purpose must be stated clearly before students begin to express feelings, to inform, to share knowledge of a subject or to strengthen an area of weakness; however, students should be very aware of this at the outset.

Writing for various purposes helps to strengthen students' writing skills. It gives them opportunities to make use of various language patterns, use their imaginations, and communicate a personal interest. These factors promote security and enthusiasm in writing activities which establishes good writing skills. Effective writing is writing that is clear and precise; and students can be
encouraged to write with clarity and precision when the reasons for a writing exercise are communicated to them. Having accomplished this goal is likely to lead students to well-organized, interesting writing. The desire for continuous experiences in writing increases when assigned tasks grow out of a meaningful purpose.

Audience

Students of beginning writing may compose for their personal satisfaction where they are their own audiences. From this point they may progress to having their teacher as the audience. Nevertheless, having a specific audience for addressing a specific topic is a vital part of the composing process. Knoll presented the importance of developing a "deep or consistent sense of audience. Whether students choose themselves, the teacher, or the public as their audience, there is a need for them to recognize the significance of addressing varying audiences. A sense of audience is helpful in making word choices, selecting vocabulary and directing thinking. Knoll stated further that "communicat [n]eessitates gett:;ng beyond the person..." He stated that:

A sense of audience is crucial if writers are to select and organize information so that they communicate with readers. (Knoll, 1978)
The California State Department of Education reported the necessity of learning to write for various audiences, both known and unknown audiences. It is their belief that the child is his or her own first audience. It was stated that:

... These known audiences require that writers communicate their feelings and ideas in forms more controlled than those they use when writing only for themselves. As they write they must constantly envision their audience. ... Ultimately, students should learn to write for broader audiences. As they do so, they will need to adjust the nature of their diction and rhetoric with this larger audience in mind. (California State Department of Education, 1982)

Cowan discussed the benefits of having your audience in mind as you begin to write. She emphasized that:

If you invent or know your audience in advance, however, you can plan the whole essay around this person or group of people. You gain enormously by having your audience in mind from the very start. ... It is crucial to note who your specific audience is at the outset ... because your approach to the subject will be determined by who the audience is. (Cowan, 1983)

Kroll reported the effects of different dialects and cultures in writing for various audiences. He emphasized that learning to write is "much more complicated when cultural and dialect differences are involved." He continued by reporting that:

There are special groups of children who write for people who do not share their frame of reference. They are the children who enter schools of a majority culture
with personal experience that is rooted in another culture. How can they learn to write for someone who cannot share their frame of reference? (Kroll, 1983)

Considering Kroll's statements and question, it becomes a reality that encouraging the limited-English proficient students to express their opinions and ideas in writing can be a very difficult assignment; however, it can be a great challenge and the end results can be pleasurable. It may prove to be beneficial to encourage these students to begin by writing for themselves as their first audience. They can later move to wider audiences as they become more proficient in writing.

Bullock commented on the teacher as the students' first audience, and audience as a measure of assessing the students' quality of communication. He emphasized that:

The writers' sense of audience is one of the ways in which the quality of communication can be assessed. It has long been realized, and research has confirmed the fact that by far the largest amount of writing done in school is explicitly directed at the teacher. The remaining small proportion is divided between writing for self and writing for other pupils. Clearly, the teacher has the responsibility of providing continuity in his capacity of principle receiver of what the child writes. (Bullock, 1975)

The California State Department of Education reported the importance of writing for oneself in preparation for writing for larger audiences. The report continued by stating that:
Writers address numerous audiences, but they are their own first audience. Writing for oneself can take various forms, such as journals, diaries, learning logs and poems. Such egocentric writing may not be fully understandable to others. However, such writing is most important in helping writers discover what they believe, know, wish to say before they write for larger audiences. (California State Department of Education, 1980)

There may be disagreement as to students' first audience, however, its importance in focusing thinking and stating points clearly and fluently is evident. During an assigned writing activity, students may write for self, teacher, classmates, the school, or other audiences. The audience of focus must be explicitly stated as the activity begins. Having knowledge of the audience to be addressed will assist students in selecting appropriate vocabulary, emphasizing specific information and using acceptable language patterns. Knoll suggested two strategies for helping students develop a sense of audience:

One common strategy for enhancing sense of audience is to make children more conscious of the need to identify an audience when writing. . . . Another way to help children develop a sense of audience is to teach writing within an interactive classroom in which students write for each other and respond to each other's compositions. . . . A sense of audience is crucial if writers are to select and organize information so that they communicate with readers. (Knoll, 1978)

Students need to be challenged to communicate with varying audiences. This is likely to promote flexible thinking, well-organized compositions, and competence in writing. Writing for different audiences provides the
motivational opportunities that will encourage greater complexity in students' writing.

A Summary of Research on Writing

Lunsteen, at the National Conference on Research in English, reported some interesting findings in regard to writing. She reported twelve points of knowledge from research and observation:

1. Oral language base. Written composition needs to be tied to oral language. Gradual growth from dictation to shared writing to independent writing seems to be a natural sequence for a great majority of ready young learners.

2. Environment. A varied environment that stimulates many kinds of creative responses adds depth and increases potential for selection of content. We need to spend more time on what happens before a child writes.

3. Inner motivation. Motivation to communicate comes from within. Teachers can't "motivate" children to write; they can only stimulate them.

4. The contribution of children's literature. Children's literature can contribute greatly to the written and oral composing of children. Awareness in children of what a story is grows from early exposure to stories heard and read.

5. Audience. Various audiences help to shape the style and content of writing. Stories written for younger friends or classes have characters quite different from those written for older students or adults.

6. Positive response. Enjoyment of stories and reports, appreciation for a bit of original phrasing or a unique character or end, is response to encourage.

7. Crafts. One of the truisms of composing is that ideas forging ahead of one's pencil or typewriter cause many surface errors.

8. Oral display. Not every piece of writing needs to be corrected or copied. Much of a child's writing is best read aloud and filed in a private folder.
9. Developmental irregularity. Development in writing occurs in irregular spurts. Teaching needs to be based on developmental knowledge of children's composing.

10. Observation. Developing powers of observation is essential to the writing process. Welcoming oral comments upon observation strengthens abilities needed in composing.

11. Voice. As children mature in supportive environments, they develop an individual "voice." They must be helped to understand who they are... and what values they stand for in order to develop their own style and project their creativity into their products.

12. Creative problem-solving is an important part of composing, can strengthen essential processes of selection. It can apply what they know about productive problem-solving to composing in writing. (Lunsteen, 1976)

As a result of his research and observation,

Glatthorn discussed these conclusions regarding the teaching of writing:

1. The study of formal grammar is not related to improvement in writing, and may in fact take time away from the teaching of writing.
2. Sentence combining practice will help students write sentences that are more syntactically mature.
3. Frequency of writing in and of itself is not associated with improvement in writing. (Glatthorn, 1981)

Glatthorn continued by reporting findings regarding the composing process and its implications for the teaching of writing based on his research. He reported that:

First, the teacher should make the students aware of the composing process they currently use and the extent to which those processes might be counterproductive... Second, the teacher should help students deal with the complexities of the composing process by "fractioning" and "routinizing"... Third, the teacher should slow down the entire composing process. The final recommendation grows out of the preceding three suggestions:
Teachers should emphasize the exploring, planning, revising and sharing processes so that students develop the requisite skills and gain the benefit of these critical states. (Glatthorn, 1981)

Baynes suggested that teachers give greater emphasis to the guiding and careful development of a limited number of papers rather than the "hurried production of a greater number of papers." In "Using Research in Preparing to Teach Writing," he concluded that:

1. A relationship exists between increased reading and improved writing.
2. Pre-writing activities help students learn to write better.
3. Peer feedback and peer editing can effect improvement in writing. (Baynes, 1978)

Golub, in a study that included discussions of current research in language development and instruction, questions regarding whether children are learning the language they are being taught, and current practices in written language instruction in the elementary school found that:

Realistic approaches are needed in teaching language usage, dialects and registers. These approaches should include a nonrepetitive instruction system accounting for different linguistic abilities, diagnostic evaluation of children's written language ability, objectives based on language preferences and control rather than correctness, and learning environment and activities based on individualized and carefully monitored instructional theories. (Golub, 1973)

Kafka found as a result of his research that intermediate grade children in an integrated suburban school district produced best quality written narrative
compositions when subjected to a visual, auditory or tactile stimuli. His results revealed that visual stimuli produced the most superior written samples.

Practices which seem to pay off in the teaching of written language in the elementary school classroom are those practices which involve the student immediately with a stimulus for thought, some time to think quietly or out loud to another student about the stimulus, followed by time to write, followed by time to read and to evaluate aloud to peers what has been written. (Golub, 1973)

Wienke in a study of strategies for improving elementary students' writing skills concluded that:

Students' composing skills are affected by the type of instructional program to which they are exposed. The balanced writing program has significant and favorable effects on students' skills. A balanced approach including dictation free writing, proofreading, etc., seems to be important. The success of the program seems to be collective results of these factors: increased time on task which is the result of the daily writing period, peer evaluation, proofreading, revision, and writing, peer appreciation and modeling. (Wienke, 1979)

Ottinger studied the effects of different models of language arts instruction on the writing of second and third graders. The purpose of the study was to identify and describe various models of language instruction. She concluded that:

Two variables were identified that seem to have positive effects on student writing. Positive correlations existed between the quality of writing and number of words composed daily by students and amount of direct teaching to student communication. In the classes of good writers, students were inspired to compose almost daily and teachers used approximately forty percent of their language arts instruction time for teacher-student
conferences. Four of five good writing classes were rated as being student-centered, integrated. (Ottinger, 1982)

In Boehler's study of the effects of oral planning on fifth grade composing, she found that:

... verbalization of one's own ideas is more conducive to mature writing than is listening to others ideas...

In an atmosphere of security and mutual trust, there is no problem of one child's coping another's ideas...

Teachers who will be in a better position to help children with writing strategies as needed. (Boehler, 1977)

Brown in a study of the process of children's writing observed children ages nine, ten, and eleven as they wrote. They study sought to describe how children approach the task of writing, "the manner and extent of their interaction, and the results of this interaction upon their writing." He concluded that:

Moderate talk about content, type of story, throughout the writing activity, seems motivational. The children seem to require a focus for their talk about ideas, content, endings and for their questions—as their story is being written. The teacher should be the main focus although it should be noted that the children also discuss these matters with each other. (Brown, 1977)

Stallard studied the writing behavior of good student writers and concluded that "writers feel the need to take note of what is evolving on the page, to experience it for himself." The purpose of the study was to:

... analyze certain aspects of behavior of a group of good student writers ... to know if behavior of this group of students while writing would include evidence of consideration for such things as structure, organization, style, and diction or if the evidence
would suggest that the writing they did was largely independent of conscious consideration of such elements. (Stallard, 1974)

DeVries conducted a study with fifth graders. One of the groups wrote a theme a week while the second group did no writing. The second group spent more time reading in and out of class. DeVries reported these findings:

Both groups gained in writing, with the reading group clearly outperforming the writing group on the posttest essay in all categories (content, mechanics, organization, grammar, wording and phrasing). (DeVries, 1970)

Graves as a result of his observation and research discussed the importance of writing. He stated that "writing is most important . . . as a contribution to the development of a person, no matter what the person's background and talents."

In Balance the Basics: Let Them Write, he wrote these conclusions based on his studies:

1. Writing develops courage. Writers leave the shelter of anonymity and offer to public scrutiny their interior language, feelings, and thoughts. . . .
2. . . . Writing, more than any other subject, can be the means to personal breakthrough in learning. . . .
3. . . . Writing can contribute to reading from the first day the child enters school. . . .
4. Writing also contributes to reading because writing is the making of reading. . . .
5. . . . Writing contributes strongly to reading comprehension. Students who do not write beyond the primary years lose an important tool for reading more difficult material. . . . The ability to revise writing for greater power and economy is one of the higher forms of reading. (Graves, 1978)
In a discussion of "How Writing is Taught," Graves stated that the process-conference approach is a "proven, workable way to reverse the decline of writing in our schools." Using this approach, teachers help students by involving them in individual conferences during the writing process. The reason for writing the composition is emphasized. Graves concluded that:

By putting ideas on paper the student first discovers what he or she knows and then is guided through repeated drafts that amplify and clarify until the topic is fully expressed. A single completed paper may require six or more conferences of from one to five minutes. . . . The teachers who use the process-conference . . . lead the writers to discover new combinations of personal thought, to develop the sense of knowing and authority so valuable to any learner. (Graves, 1978)

In 1983, Graves observed sixteen children in their classrooms. He gathered information when the teacher asked the children to write. The purpose of the study was to find out what was involved in the growth of children's control of the writing process. The emerging principles were:

1. At first children need to hear and see what they mean.
2. As children gain distance on the process of relating sounds and symbols . . . they become more dissatisfied with their text and look for new ways to insert speech features. (Graves, 1983)

Graves stated that "nothing influences a child's attitude toward writing more than the choice of topic." He
gave the following reasons for students choosing their own topics:

1. Deciding what to say is probably the hardest and most important part of writing. We cannot take this responsibility away from the writer.
2. As children consider, select, reconsider their topics, they experience the revision process.
3. When writers what they know and care about, their writing is their own. (Graves, 1983)

Research on Writing and the ESL Student

Clair, Blair, Krashen, Nelson, Reid, and Zamel have studied writing and the English as a Second Language (ESL) student. Clair conducted a study involving ESL students and considered the problem of how to provide writing instruction to ESL children in the elementary school under the existing pull-out program model. The project was designed to offer "a suggested structure for a program that could be used by all... also provide information about the development of writing skills in second language speakers of English." She stated in a brief review of the three theories of ESL instruction that:

The best way to approach writing instruction at the level of discourse is highly disputed. There has been much controversy in the past twenty years concerning the effectiveness of teaching writing in the traditional grammar to sentence to paragraph to essay approach, and many educators have claimed that since writing is a process, it should be taught in the process-oriented way, with little emphasis on the finished product. (Clair, 1982)
Blair, in a report of the acquisition theory, stated that:

Non-native speakers learn to write just as native speakers do, by learning to adjust their "monitors." Teachers too often focus on form rather than on the students' interests and abilities. . . . However, when native and non-native speakers' individual ideas are forced to conform to a prescribed format and formula, the writing loses its effect and its versatility. Students' anxiety about writing is often due to over-active monitors. (Blair, 1983)

She continued by stating that the ESL students may simplify their writing or regress. This takes place in order to provide a comfort zone for these students. She emphasized, "We need to realize that regression represents potential for growth."

Krashen, in *Writing: Research, Theory and Application*, discussed writing frequency and its effect upon students. He reported these findings:

Simply increasing academic writing frequency does not result in significant increased proficiency. Very small effects for writing frequency and improvement in writing quality were found. . . . (Krashen, 1984)

In 1981, Krashen discussed the second language acquisition theory and stated that:

. . . second language acquirers have two distinct ways of developing ability in second languages. Language acquisition is similar to the way children develop first language competence. Language acquisition is a subconscious process in two senses: people are often not aware that they are acquiring language while they are doing so. What they are aware of is using the language for some communication purpose. (Krashen, 1984)
Kraschen also discussed the effective filter, "a construct developed to refer to the effects of personality, motivation, and other effective variables on second language acquisition;" and comprehensible input, "a construct developed to describe understandable and meaningful language directed at language acquirers at optimal conditions." He concluded that successful second language acquisition is related to:

1. Anxiety. Low anxiety related to second language acquisition.

Nelson stated that "writing instruction is process based and process perpetuating, but includes attention to the products at appropriate states." In a study of how writers teach writing she found that writing is central and structure is taught incidentally. These teachers emphasized strengths before addressing weaknesses, and in these classes "students rapidly grow in confidence, and refer to themselves as writers." In her discussion of what was learned about how ESL students write, she stated that:

... Sharing and responding helped students discuss subjects they wanted to write about... Discussing their own favorite topics and finding them pleasing to others lead to breakthroughs in attitude and commitment to their work... Constructive criticism helped
students evaluate their work by increasingly sophisticated standards they picked and refined through experience with direct instruction. (Nelson, 1983)

Nelson stated further that "Writing is a second is a complex task." She reported that the teacher of ESL will find that the strategies used in the ESL classroom will work for native speakers as well. She concluded by stating that:

Like the writing process itself, the process of learning to write is itself recursive and largely intuitively acquired. Growing as a writer is a non-linear, holistic process facilitated by membership in a writing community and requiring opportunity to elaborate what is learned by cycling through the phases of writing time and time again. (Nelson, 1983)

Reid reported on the use of special details and the point paragraph in assisting intermediate ESL composers. The objective is for students to write well-planned, coherent paragraphs "acceptable to the American academic audience, within limited formats." She stated further, based on her observation and research, that the two additional fundamentals guiding students' efforts are "to write what he knows about and to write for an audience." She concluded by offering four elements and strategies for teachers:

A growing body of literature suggests that teachers can effectively guide student learning by following a pattern of systematic instruction. These elements are:
1. Clear focus on the objective or task.
2. Small increments of instruction.
3. Ample opportunity for students to respond.
4. Prompted practice.
Strategies for teachers are:
1. Analyze questions carefully and sequence according to difficulty.
2. Give students steps to follow in finding and verifying answers.
3. Provide ample oral practice with different types of questions.
4. Share what you are doing with colleagues.
   (Reid, 1982)

Zamel conducted a study of the composing process of advanced ESL students. The purpose of the study was to investigate the extent to which students "experience writing as a process of discovering and creating meaning and the extent to which second language factors affect this process." She reported that:

... proficient ESL writers like their native language counterparts, experience writing as a process of creating meaning. These students explore their ideas and thoughts on paper, discuss in the act of doing so not only what these ideas and thoughts are, but also the form with which best to express them. Moreover, they recognize the importance of being flexible, starting anew when necessary, and continuing to rework their papers over time as they take into account another readers frame of reference. (Zemel, 1983)

As a result of her research, Zamel discussed the importance of assisting students through knowing how they learn. and instruction which give students direct experience with the composing process. She summarized by stating that:

To sum up these findings, composing, as it has been experienced and described by the skilled ESL writer, seems to be a framework with which to best present these ideas. This process is creative and generative and may not always be based on a clear sense of direction or explicit plan, but rather a plan that allows further discussion and exploration. It involves integrating new
ideas, revising those that have already been recorded and may entail reconstructing one's framework to accommodate these changes. It requires the ability to assess clarity of thought and logic and to distance oneself from the text, thereby taking into account the reader's point of view. (Zamel, 1983)

Concluding Comments

Research on writing is a recent undertaking, and research on writing and the ESL student is very limited. However, of the research that is available, the results offer many points worthy of consideration by teachers of native English speakers, as well as limited-English proficient students. DiStefano, Haley-James, Glatthorn, Graves, Nelson, Reid and Rose discussed the importance of writing and its stages. They emphasized that writing develops through a number of phases and it is vital that students have an awareness of these phases. It was pointed out that one stage builds upon another and that students put to use each skill as they find success in writing.

In order to express ideas and thoughts effectively, students need numerous experiences. Hutchcraft, Burns, Shane, Rubin, Fisher, Allen, and Managieri have stated that experiencing assists students in writing clearly and fluently. It is through writing that students organize their ideas and make discoveries about themselves and their world. As the experiences become frequent and take a variety of forms, the thoughts expressed are clearer and
more effective. In this light, writing becomes a very powerful tool, and an important skill.

Byrne and Krening emphasized that all writing should be purposeful. Each student should understand the purpose of the writing assignment and the effect it will have upon him or her as a learner. The purpose should vary frequently. The purpose may be to inform, to persuade, to present knowledge of a subject or to share personal information. Regardless, this purpose should be stated clearly at the outset of the assigned task.

A writing activity should be designed for a specific audience. Knoll, Cowan and Bullock have discussed the significance of writing for a specific audience. Many students in their effort to make sense of their world view themselves as their audience, and they, therefore, become their own first audience. Others may complete beginning writing activities with their teacher as audience. Other audiences such as friends, classmates, the whole class, the school or public are important in rendering a writer effective.

Students write about what they know about and have the vocabulary for expressing. All pre-writing activities should include vocabulary building. This provides students with the mechanisms for expressing opinions and giving information. The vocabulary on a given subject can be
provided through brainstorming sessions. When this activity is conducted in a warm, non-threatening environment, students are likely to develop the confidence necessary for putting this new learning into written form.

Krashen and Stewig stated that the lessons in writing should fit the needs of the students. Students write out of a need or in response to an interest. This assists in making the activity meaningful, useful and aids in creating a desire for additional activities. Students are provided opportunities to explore an area of interest through writing. They are lead to learn more about themselves and the world around them. Writing that grows out of a need may be viewed by students as a significant tool for aiding them in becoming personally proficient in communication through composing.

A search of the literature and research reveals numerous processes for writing instruction, as well as techniques for teaching students to express themselves in writing effectively. There appears to be no specific technique designed to render each limited-English proficient student successful in writing, however, there are agreements among researchers that the LEP students learn to write much the same way their native English speaking classmates do. All students can learn to become
more effective, efficient, fluent, clear writers. The major ingredients in this process appear to be:

1. Continuous interesting experiences
2. Clearly communicated directions
3. Many opportunities for building skills sequentially
4. A deep understanding of the composing process
5. Opportunities for vocabulary development
6. A comfortable, non-threatening environment
7. Considerable time for writing
CHAPTER III

Introduction

In this study, the investigator sought to determine the effectiveness of a structured-insightful approach to encouraging limited-English proficient students at level three (LEP 3) to express themselves clearly, fluently, and effectively in writing. The population for this study included thirty-five students who were attending three elementary schools in the Santa Clara Unified School District. These students were identified as LEP 3 based on the district's guidelines. As students enter their designated schools, parents, or guardians complete the Home Language Survey (see Appendix 1). If any language other than English is listed in response to questions one, two, three, or four, testing is initiated for possible participation in the English Language Acquisition Program (ELA). Students are administered the Language Assessment Scale (LAS). If they score at levels one, two, or three, they become participants in the ELA program, and are classified as LEP 1 (beginners), LEP 2 (intermediates), or LEP 3 (advanced). Students scoring at levels four or five are classified Fluent English Speaking (FEP) and receive no additional assistance in English unless indicated by the
district's Reading/Writing Assessment. Students scoring one, two, or three on the Reading/Writing Assessment are classified as LEP 3 and they receive special instruction in reading and writing (see Appendices).

Once students qualify as participants in the ELA program, they remain there until the five criteria outlined below are met:

1. Student Oral Observation Matrix (SOLOM)
   Level 4 out of 5 in comprehension
   Level 4 out of 5 in fluency
   Level 4 out of 5 in vocabulary
   Level 3 out of 5 in pronunciation
   Level 4 out of 5 in grammar
2. A score of 4 or 5 on the LAS Test
3. Scoring at or above the 36th percentile on a standardized achievement test in total reading, language, and mathematics.
4. A score of level 4 or 5 on both the District Reading and Writing Assessment Tests.
5. Parent approval. (Santa Clara Unified School District, 1985)

Many LEP 3 students remain in the ELA Program because of their failure to meet the above criteria for reclassification. These students are most often classified as LEP 3 and demonstrate failure to obtain scores of four or five in reading or writing. The Santa Clara Unified School District has taken steps to assure greater progress in reading for the LEP, as well as all students. A new textbook has been introduced and other materials purchased or developed; however, there is a lack of materials or a specific technique designed to assure success in writing.
for the LEP students. Thus, this study was designed to determine the effectiveness of a structured-insightful approach, designed by the author, in assisting the LEP 3 students in experiencing success in writing.

The three elementary schools represented in this study are Bowers, Bracher, and Montague. The 1984-85 enrollment of Bowers School was approximately 475. Of this number, approximately 52 percent were classified as LEP. A major portion of the LEP population was classified as LEP 3. These students received special assistance from three Language Development Assistants (LDA) who provided primary language support in Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese. This program was coordinated by the school facilitator. It consisted of a daily thirty minute session of English Language Acquisition activities. The twelve students in this group represented experimental group one (see Appendices).

The enrollment of Montague School was approximately 400 students of which approximately 40 percent are classified as LEP. The LEP 1 students at this school received instruction in their classroom and were taught by the classroom teacher for one hour each day. The LEP 2 and LEP 3 students received special assistance from three LDA's who provided primary language support in Samoan, Spanish, and Vietnamese. These programs were coordinated by the
school facilitator. The students in this group represented the experimental group two (see Appendices).

The students in the control group attended Bracher School which had an enrollment of approximately 460 students. Of this number approximately 18 percent are classified as LEP 1. These students received special assistance from three LDA's who provide primary language support in Spanish and Vietnamese. This program is coordinated by the school facilitator who also provided English Language Acquisition assistance. The students participated in a thirty-minute daily program.

The languages represented by each of these schools include Hindi, Ilocano, Loas, Portuguese, Punjabi, Korean, Samoan, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Of the languages represented by the experimental groups, 36 percent was Vietnamese, 16 percent was Ilocano, 12 percent was Hindi, 12 percent was Korean, 8 percent was Spanish, 4 percent was Loas, and 4 percent was Punjabi. Of the languages represented by the control group, 40 percent was Vietnamese, 30 percent was Tagalog, 10 percent was Korean, 10 percent was Portuguese, and 10 percent was Samoan.

Limitations

This investigation was limited to 35 students who attended three elementary schools in the Santa Clara
Unified School District (Table 1, Table 2, Table 3). These students qualified for the district's ELA program based on the assessment tests and remained there due to their lack of proficiency in writing. They were in grades four, five, and six which means a focus on upper elementary level. There were sixteen boys and nine girls in the experimental groups, and seven boys and three girls in the control group. This study was also limited by the extreme mobility of the LEP students. (Note: Thirty-five students represent loss of nineteen of the original sample of eighteen students in each group, a total of fifty-four students.)

**Delimitations**

Findings for this study are generalized only to similar schools having high percentages of LEP students who are similar to those reported in this study.

**Null Hypothesis**

The structured-insightful approach to teaching limited-English proficient students to express themselves in writing is no more nor less effective than a less structured method for the students in this investigation.
### TABLE 1

**LANGUAGES OF EXPERIMENTAL AND CONTROL GROUPS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Languages</th>
<th>EL (N=12)</th>
<th>E2 (N=13)</th>
<th>C (N=10)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Hindi</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Ilocano</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>3. Korean</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>4. Loas</td>
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<td>5. Portuguese</td>
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<td>6. Punjabi</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Samoan</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Spanish</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Tagalog</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Vietnamese</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>

In the experimental groups, boys represented 64 percent, and girls represented 36 percent. The control group consisted of 70 percent boys and 30 percent girls.
TABLE 2

BOYS AND GIRLS IN EXPERIMENTAL AND CONTROL GROUPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>E1 (N=12)</th>
<th>E2 (N=13)</th>
<th>C (N=10)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Boys</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
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</table>

Students in both the experimental and control groups were in grades four, five, and six.
TABLE 3

GRADES OF STUDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>E1 (N=12)</th>
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<th>C  (N=10)</th>
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Hypothesis

In this investigation, there is a significant difference in the ability of limited-English proficient students to express themselves in writing which depends upon whether they were exposed to the structured-insightful approach to teaching.

Definition of Terms

Appreciate - To recognize the quality and be sensitive and aware of the value of writing as a lifelong skill.

Clearly - Expressing ideas precisely and thoughtfully so that certain positions can be easily seen.

Effectively - Creating ideas formulated from experience so as to produce the desired effect.

EO - A native English speaker who speaks only English.

ELA - English Language Acquisition Program, the Santa Clara Unified School District's program designed to assist non-English or limited-English proficient students in developing competence in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English.

ESL - English as a Second Language, a method designed for the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills for non-English speakers.
**Fluent English Proficient (FEP)** - A student who is classified as fluent English speaking based on the LAS score of four or five.

**Fluently** - A flowing of ideas with ease, clarity, and smoothness.

**Holistic Scoring** - Evaluation of student writing as a whole in comparison to other compositions in the group.

**Insightful** - The ability to see and understand clearly that skill or process being taught.

**LAS** - Language Assessment Scale, a test designed to assess the oral language ability of non-English or limited-English speaking students.

**Limited-English Proficient (LEP)** - A student who is classified as LEP 1 (beginning), LEP 2 (intermediate), or LEP 3 (advanced).

**Prompt** - A statement used to inspire and encourage writing.

**Rubric** - Explanatory comments used in determining the holistic score.

**Structured** - The arrangement of the parts of a composition so that they take place in a determined sequence.

**Technique** - A method or procedure to be followed during the act of writing.
Value - The quality that makes writing desirable and worthy of the effort.

Writing - A form of communication for a specific purpose and designed for a specific audience, and a means by which thoughts and ideas are shared.

Questions to be Answered

1. Is a structured-insightful method more effective in teaching LEP students to express themselves in writing than a less structured more informal method?
2. Is the structured-insightful method more effective with students as a group?
3. Is the structured-insightful method more effective with boys than with girls?
4. With which language group is the structured-insightful method most effective?
5. At which grade level is the structured-insightful method most effective?

Design of the Study

The students in the experimental groups participated in a writing class three times weekly following this schedule:

Day one - Students shared an experience (experiencing), engaged in oral discussions, and participated in brainstorming or clustering activities (preplanning).
Day two - Students were given time for composing using the shared experience and brainstorming vocabulary as a guide (writing). Students continued by rereading, rethinking, and revising their thoughts and ideas (revising).

Day three - Students completed a polished piece of writing where the emphasis was neatness and appearance (rewriting). The students participated in sharing activities which included reading the completed work to the group, reading the work to the teacher, having the teacher read the composition to the group, reading the work to a partner, submitting the writing for a class or school newspaper, or submitting the writing to be placed in the Santa Clara Unified School District's Young Writers' Anthology.

TABLE 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPERIMENTAL GROUP WRITING SCHEDULE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experiencing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preplanning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The students at Bracher School representing the control group submitted writing samples during months one
and six. The instructions to them were to write about a favorite place. They participated in no special writing class or activities.

The major purposes of this study were to provide for students of varying backgrounds and languages common experiences upon which to build vocabulary useful in expressing their ideas in writing; consequently encouraging clear, fluent writing. The students were encouraged to maintain writing folders where all attempts at completing an assignment were kept for review of general progress. These folders were also used as a means of sharing ideas among participating students, as well as with the classroom teachers.

During each writing session, students responded to the following prompts:

1. Writing Session One - Writing session one took place during month one. At this time students responded to the following prompt:
   
   Think of your favorite place. Write about your favorite place. Tell about the things you enjoy doing there and give reasons why you enjoy them.

2. Writing Session Two - Writing sessions two through ten took place during months two, three, four, five, and six. During writing session two, after various experiences with different kinds of stuffed bears, bear
puppets, pictures of various kinds of bears, and books about bears, the students participated in a brainstorming activity then responded to the prompt:

Think of a time when you saw a bear. Think of the way the bear looked. Think of the experiences you had. Write about the experience you had with a bear.

3. Writing Session Three - After an experience with various trophies that had been presented for some sport event, medals commemorating some event, and award certificates, students participated in a clustering session for developing vocabulary and then responded to the following prompt:

Think of a time when you or someone you know won a trophy. Imagine that you and the person won a trophy for being the world's greatest in some sport. Write about the circumstances leading to your winning the trophy, and tell how you felt being a winner.

4. Writing Session Four - After an experience with pictures, books, and stories about Bugs Bunny, the students participated in an oral discussion and a brainstorming session regarding Bugs Bunny, and responded to the following prompt:

Imagine that Bugs Bunny found a giant carrot and he decided to build a rocket. Write about Bugs Bunny's
experiences as he built the rocket. Write about his adventures in space in his completed rocket.

5. **Writing Session Five** - After an experience with stuffed unicorns, pictures, and posters having unicorns, the students participated in a brainstorming session and developed vocabulary. They responded to the following prompt:

   Imagine that you and your friend found a unicorn. Write about your adventure and explain how you became successful in catching the unicorn.

6. **Writing Session Six** - After an experience of tasting various flavors of ice cream, students participated in a clustering session and responded to the following prompt:

   Imagine that you have many flavors of ice cream and that you plan to build a "Super Duper Ice Cream Cone." Write about the steps you would take in making the ice cream cone and what you would do when it is completed.

7. **Writing Session Seven** - After an experience with various toy boats and ships, pictures of ships and boats, and books and ships and boats, students participated in a brainstorming session and responded to the following prompt:
Imagine that you are taking your first trip in a sailboat. Write about your preparations for the trip and your adventures as you sail through the ocean.

8. **Writing Session Eight** - In writing session eight students focused on unusual animals, participated in a discussion of the penguin. They developed vocabulary through a brainstorming session, then responded to the following prompt:

Imagine that you have had the opportunity to visit some penguins. Write about the things you learned by observing the penguins.

9. **Writing Session Nine** - After experiences with pictures demonstrating happy people, students participated in a brainstorming session regarding what makes one happy. They developed vocabulary and responded to the following prompt:

Imagine that this is the happiest day of your life. Write about the things that made you happy and the feelings you are experiencing.

10. **Writing Session Ten** - After an experience with a wooden wishing well, students participated in a brainstorming session about wishes. They developed vocabulary and responded to the following prompt:
Imagine that wishes come true. Write about the things you would wish for and what you would do once the wishes were granted.

Each writing session consisted of the six steps in the structured-insightful approach. On day one, the students were involved in a shared experience which provided dialogue and vocabulary. These activities assisted students in focusing on a subject and provided vocabulary useful in interacting with the group. The activities for day one are called experiencing and pre-planning. The activities for day two included rethinking and including additional ideas. These activities were called rewriting and revising. The activities for day three included completing a corrected polished piece of writing, and time set aside for sharing with a friend, a partner, the teacher or the group. These activities were called rewriting and sharing. Each writing session lasted for approximately one hour.

11. Pre and post writing samples - The prewriting sample was written during month one when students responded to the prompt:

Think of your favorite place. Write about your favorite place. Tell about the things you enjoy doing there and give reasons why you enjoy them.
During the post test session, students responded to the same prompt and were given the same directions as in session one. The pre and post test sessions, as well as all writing sessions were organized, coordinated, and taught by the author.

**Holistic Scoring**

The students' completed compositions were scored by a team of two trained scorers. The compositions were scored using holistic scoring with a scale of one to four. The scorers were trained in holistic scoring by the writer using the following guidelines:

1. Scorers were given copies of the four point rubric
2. Scorers were instructed to memorize the rubric
3. Scorers were instructed in the use of the rubric where they were taught to score the compositions on a scale of one to four, scoring each composition in relation to the others in the group
4. Scorers participated in a practice session conducted by the writer. The session included a discussion of reaching final agreement on a score when the scorers' scores differed
5. Scores were given students' pre and post writing samples (pre and post tests), as well as the ten
compositions complete in the writing sessions by the students. The scoring took place using the following rubric:

Four Point Rubric

[4] This is an excellent composition, with all or most of the following characteristics:

[ ] A clear sequence of events which is an appropriate response to the prompt and which is introduced at the beginning of the composition

[ ] Clear development of the story, without irrelevant descriptions or explanations

[ ] Good organization, including a clear beginning, middle, and end

[ ] Fresh, vigorous word choice

[ ] A variety of interesting details

[ ] Correct any appropriate structure in all or almost all sentences

[ ] Very few or no errors in the use of punctuation marks, capital letters, and spelling

[3] This is a good composition, with all or most of the following characteristics:

[ ] A sequence of events which is a good response to the prompt, but which may not be entirely clear in every part of the composition

[ ] Good development of the story, which may, however, be marred by an irrelevant description or explanation

[ ] Good organization which may, however, include undue emphasis on the beginning or end of the story

[ ] Good word choice, which is, however, not particularly fresh or vivid

[ ] Sufficient details to maintain reader interest
[ ] Correct and appropriate structure in many or most sentences

[ ] Some errors in the use of punctuation marks, capital letters, and spelling

[2] This is an adequate composition, with one or most of the following characteristics:

[ ] A sequence of events which is an adequate response to the prompt but which may be unclear in many parts of the composition

[ ] Adequate development of the story, which, however, probably includes one or more irrelevant descriptions or explanations

[ ] Organization which is not completely clear

[ ] Adequate word choice

[ ] Very few details which relate to the story

[ ] Incorrect and inappropriate structure in many sentences

[ ] Serious errors in the use of punctuation marks, capital letters, and spelling

[1] This is an inadequate composition in which it is difficult to understand what the writer is trying to say. It can be very short or very long and rambling. The composition has all or most of the following characteristics:

[ ] Some indication of an attempt to respond to the prompt, although the sequence of events is unclear

[ ] Story development which is unclear or completely lacking

[ ] No understandable organization

[ ] Unspecific, immature word choice

[ ] Complete lack of details which relate to the story

[ ] Incorrect or inappropriate sentence structure
Many serious errors in the use of punctuation marks, capital letters, and spelling (San Jose Unified School District, 1984).

Tests to be Used

The following tests were used in this study:

1. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov One Sample Test, a test of goodness of fit. . . . It is concerned with the degree of agreement between the distribution of a set of sample values (observed scores) and some specified theoretical distribution. It determines whether the scores in the sample can reasonably be thought to have come from a population having the theoretical distribution (Siegel, 1956)

2. Histograms, tables, comparing groups.
CHAPTER IV
RESULTS

Introduction
This study used the holistic approach to scoring student compositions for the following reasons:
1. The compositions could be read rapidly and the total impact evaluated.
2. It is an efficient and reliable method which emphasizes what students are doing that is correct.
3. This approach requires trained readers and consensus among the readers.
4. The compositions are evaluated on the basis of the others in the group.
5. The trained scorers focus equal attention on all aspects of the composition: content, organization, and mechanics.

Statement of Hypotheses and Statistical Tests
Posttest Scores Analysis
Null Hypothesis (Ho). The structured-insightful approach to teaching limited-English proficient students to express themselves in writing is no more nor less effective
than a less structured method for students in this investigation.

**Hypothesis (H1).** In this investigation, there is a significant difference in the ability of limited-English proficient students to express themselves in writing which depends upon whether they were exposed to the structured insightful approach to teaching.

**Statistical test.** The Kolmogorov-Smirnov one sample test was chosen because the investigator wishes to compare an observed distribution of experimental group scores on an ordinal scale with a theoretical (control group) distribution.

**Significance level.** Let $\alpha = .05$, $N =$ the number of experimental group students who served as subjects in the study, $N = 25$.

**Sampling distribution.** Various critical values of D from the sampling distribution are presented in Table E, p. 251 (Siegel, 1956).

**Function and rationale.** This test is a test of goodness of fit. It is concerned with the degree of agreement between the distribution of a set of observed scores and some specified theoretical distribution. The experimental group scores are treated as observed scores and the control group scores as the theoretical (reference) distribution. The test determines whether the sample
scores can reasonably be thought to have come from a population having the theoretical (control) distribution (see Table 1).

**Distribution of posttest scores:**

- $f$ = the number of students at a given level (posttest score with experimental groups combined).
- $F_0 (X)$ = cumulative distribution of control group scores (theoretical distribution).

**Student Opinionnaire**

Students in the experimental groups, as well as the control group, completed the Students Opinionnaire. The major purposes were to determine students' awareness of purpose and audience in writing, to determine topics students express an interest in writing about and to determine students' understanding of the usefulness of vocabulary activities. The interesting findings from an observation of the resulting raw scores indicate that 56 percent have some awareness of audience when completing an assigned task, 65 percent of the students expressed an awareness of purpose when composing, 80 percent indicated an awareness of vocabulary and its usefulness in writing; and the topics of greatest interest were people, places, and animals.
TABLE 5

DISTRIBUTION OF POSTTEST SCORES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level Test Scores</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fo(X)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S25</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1Fo(X) - S25(X) 1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From Table E where N = 25 and α = .05, the critical value is .27. Here D = max |Fo(X) - S25(X)| = 0.48.

Since 0.48 = D > 0.27, the null hypothesis (H0) is rejected in favor of the hypothesis (H1). It can be concluded that there is a significant difference between the distribution of experimental and control group scores.
TABLE 6

DISTRIBUTION OF PRETEST SCORES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level Test Scores</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F(X)</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S25(X)</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1Fo(X) - S25(X)</td>
<td>0.28</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From Table E where $N = 25$ and $a = .05$, the critical value is 0.27. Here $D = \max |\text{Fo}(X) - S_{25}(X)| = 0.28$.

Since $0.28 = D > 0.27$, the $H_0$ is rejected in favor of $H_1$. It can be concluded that there is a significant difference between the distribution of pretest experimental and control group scores.
TABLE 7
BOYS IN EXPERIMENTAL GROUPS VERSUS BOYS IN THE CONTROL GROUP
Pre and Post Test Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Montague</th>
<th>Control</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pre/post</td>
<td>pre/post</td>
<td>pre/post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 3</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td>1 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 3</td>
<td>1 4</td>
<td>2 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 3</td>
<td>1 3</td>
<td>1 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 3</td>
<td>1 3</td>
<td>2 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 3</td>
<td>1 3</td>
<td>1 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 4</td>
<td>1 3</td>
<td>1 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 3</td>
<td>1 3</td>
<td>2 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 4</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>- -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 4</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>- -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td>Pretest Scores</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>15 1 0 0</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P0(X)</td>
<td>0.057 1.00 1.00 1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S_{16}(X)</td>
<td>0.94 1.00 1.00 1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fo(X)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From Table E where N = 16 and α = .05, the critical value is 0.328. Here D = \max 1 P0(X) - S_{16}(X)|l = 0.37. Since 0.37 = D > 0.328, the Ho is rejected in favor of the H1. It can be concluded that there is a statistically significant difference between the distribution of the boys pretest experimental and control group scores.
TABLE 9

BOYS POSTTEST SCORES (E AND C GROUPS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level Posttest Scores</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 2 3 4</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>0 0 12 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F0(X)</td>
<td>0.00 0.29 1.00 1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S16</td>
<td>0.00 0.00 0.75 1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1F0(X)-S16(X)1</td>
<td>0.00 0.29 0.25 0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From Table E where N = 16 and \( \alpha = .05 \), the critical value = 0.328. Here \( D = \max (|F_0(X) - S_{16}(X)|) = 0.29 \). Since 0.29 = 0 > 0.328, it failed to reject the Ho. It can be concluded that the observed difference between boys' experimental and boys control group posttest scores could well be due to chance variation in sampling. It can further be concluded that there is no evidence that the boys experimental group posttest scores are really any different than those of the control group.
TABLE 10

GIRLS PRETEST AND POSTTEST SCORES (E AND C GROUPS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre and Post Test Scores</th>
<th>Bowers</th>
<th>Montague</th>
<th>Control</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pre/post</td>
<td>pre/post</td>
<td>pre/post</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 4</td>
<td>2 4</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 4</td>
<td>2 4</td>
<td>2 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 4</td>
<td>1 3</td>
<td>2 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- -</td>
<td>2 4</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- -</td>
<td>2 4</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- -</td>
<td>1 4</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From Table E where N = 9 and α = .05, the critical value is 0.432. Since 0.22 = D > 0.432, it fails to reject the Ho. It can be concluded that the observed differences between girls experimental and girls control group pretest scores are no different.
## TABLE 11

**GIRLS PRETEST SCORES (E AND C GROUPS)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level Pretest Scores</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>f</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fo(X)</strong></td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>S^g_9</strong></td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(</td>
<td>Fo(X)-S^g_9(X)</td>
<td>**</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From Table E where \( N = 9 \) and \( \alpha = .05 \) the critical value is 0.432. Since 0.89 = \( D \) > 0.432, the Ho is rejected in favor of H1. It can be concluded that there is a statistically significant difference between the distribution of experimental group girls and control group girls posttest scores.
TABLE 13

FIFTH GRADE IMPROVEMENT (PRE/POSTTEST)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>+1</th>
<th>+2</th>
<th>+3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fo(X)</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S_{10}</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1Fo(X) - S_{10}(X)</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From Table E where N = 10 and \( \alpha = 0.05 \), the critical value is 0.410. Here \( D = \text{max} 1F_{0}(X) - S_{10}(X)1 = 1.00 \). Since 1.00 = D 0.410 the Ho is rejected in favor of H1 and it can be concluded that there is a statistically significant difference between the distribution of experimental and the control group improvement in the fifth grade.
TABLE 14

SIXTH GRADE IMPROVEMENT (PRE/POSTTEST)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>+1</th>
<th>+2</th>
<th>+3</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$f$</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$F_0(X)$</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$S_7(X)$</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$</td>
<td>F_0(X) - S_7(X)</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>0.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From Table E where $N = 7$ and $\alpha = 0.05$, the critical value is 0.486. Here $D = \max |F_0(X) - S_7(X)| = 0.53$. Since $D = 0.53 > 0.486$, it can be concluded that there is a statistically significant difference between the distribution of the experimental and control group scores of students in the sixth grade groups.
The Student Opinionnaire proved useful to the writer in organizing and preparing writing assignments to be used in the weekly writing sessions. It provided several topics of interest to the students, but more importantly, the student responses indicate that 77 percent of the students agreed that students can do well in school when they have the ability to write well.

Questions Answered

This investigation succeeded in answering the following questions:

1. Is a structured-insightful method more effective in teaching LEP students to express themselves in writing than a less structured more informal method?

   The analysis of the data from this investigation supports the conclusion that the structured-insightful approach is more effective than a less structured approach in teaching LEP 3 students to express themselves clearly and effectively in writing.

2. Is the structured-insightful method more effective with students as a group?

   The analysis of the data from this investigation supports the conclusion that the structured-insightful method is more effective than a less structured method for
The students in the experimental group scored significantly higher than the control group in posttesting.

3. Is the structured-insightful method more effective with boys than with girls?

The analysis of the data from this investigation supports the conclusion that the structured-insightful method is more effective for girls in the group. The girls scored significantly higher than boys in posttesting; however it is interesting to note that all experimental students made progress. Some students achieved maximum potential receiving scores of four in posttesting.

4. With which language group is the structured-insightful method most effective?

The analysis of the data from this investigation supports the conclusion that the Vietnamese students achieved greater gains and higher scores in posttesting. The improvement score for students in experimental group one (E1) was 2.25, and the improvement for the students in experimental group two (E2) was 2.00.

5. At what grade level is the structured-insightful method most effective?

As a result of observation of the raw scores, it can be concluded that the structured-insightful method was most effective for sixth grad. The sixth grade students in both
experimental groups reached maximum potential receiving scores of four in posttesting.
CHAPTER V

SOCIAL CHANGE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE STUDY

Introduction

... Change is normal and continual. The important questions to ask relate to the direction and rate of change at various levels of social life. ... For some there is no change or at least no significant change until the institution itself as changed. For others, even changes in attitudes reflect significant alterations in social life. ... Whether we are dealing with the individual or social level, change is of essence, and humans must either grow or decay. ... What demands investigation are such questions as why certain societies exhibit unusually rapid or unusually slow rates of change; what factors affect rates and how; and whether there is an optimal rate of change for human well-being. (Lauer, 1977)

Recent developments in the study of writing and writing instruction have revealed many interesting facts regarding the composing process. There is awareness of the fact that the beginnings of writing take place at very young ages as children begin to have their first experiences in life. There is realization that children's early encounters in life should be numerous and varied, and that these experiences should include the use of the senses which will prepare them for expressing thoughts and ideas in speech. Although, young children progress for the "silent period" to speech at varying rates of speed and they perform at varying levels, speaking or permitting young children to talk about experiences can render them
more enlightening. Speech can be a medium through which children relive past experiences, a skill that can be useful at a later time when they progress to the reading and writing stages. They may each develop the skills at their own rates, however, notable changes will take place.

Hutchcraft discussed the importance of encouraging children to share experiences through speech. He stated that children "consolidate knowledge" through this process. He continued by stating that:

With young children the opportunity to talk about every day happenings encourage them to formulate and remember these happenings and to become adept to putting their experiences in words. It has another important effect: the process of formulating their experiences helps to make sense of this experience and to relate it to previous experiences. This is the part of the process by which they consolidate any knowledge they have or any learning that is taking place as young children learn through their senses. (Hutchcraft, 1981)

There is, also, awareness that as students demonstrate a readiness for writing, their experiences in activities should take place on a daily basis. The activities should grow out of student interests, or topics selected by them. Pre-writing activities are of great importance in that they provide needed vocabulary which offers the forward thrust many students need to begin the composing process. The time element in the composing process is significant in that students require settling in time, as well as time for thinking and organizing thoughts.
This is especially true of the limited-English proficient (LEP) student who needs time for sorting new information.

One of the theories of change operable in the changing techniques in writing instruction is problem solving. This theory is operable as efforts are made to answer questions regarding the most successful methods and techniques available in creating skilled writers in today's schools. These techniques are especially needed in the instruction of the growing numbers of LEP students who lack the ability to learn by conventional means due to their lack of ability in English. This theory manifests itself as textbook writers, curriculum developers, principals, teachers, and the community seek information that will lead to more effective writing instruction for the LEP students.

Problem solving is the highest form of learning. It enables a person to secure new ideas independent of others. Learning to solve problems involves several steps including defining the problem, formulating a hypothesis regarding its solution, verifying a final hypothesis and achieving a solution. Problem solving requires thinking and is generally regarded as the most complex form of intellectual activity. (Klausmier, 1971)

Writing is a most complex form of communication and success in it depends upon students having understanding of all the steps in the process. Success also depends upon students having a meaningful purpose for writing. This purpose must be one that is clearly defined for students, and one in which students can engage with enthusiasm. This
involved process will enable students to express themselves with ease and clarity as they become totally involved in writing about personal experiences that they have encountered at an emotional level.

Writing instruction is experiencing new importance as the writing of employees and teachers is being examined with a more critical eye, and the responsibility of seeking new techniques that will lead LEP students to success in writing has surfaced. Those viewing writing are most often in the power positions, and the writer views the power-coercive theory of change to be operable. The power-coercive theory is based upon the exertion of power in some form. The company leaders and school administrators desire more effective writing, and seek methods for making this a reality.

Normative re-educative strategies build upon assumptions about human motivations different from those underlying the first. Patterns of action and practice supported by sociocultural norms and by commitments on the part of individuals to these norms. Changes in patterns of practices will occur as the persons involved are brought to change their normative orientations to old patterns and develop commitments to new ones. (Bennis, 1969)

As the period of more rapid communication approaches, employers and educators observe a lack of emphasis on writing. Educators also observed a lack of motivation for writing even among teachers. As this truth has been noted, there has been observed a change in the
emphasis on writing as a process and a skill. With this in mind, the writer views the normative re-educative theory of social change to be in operation. The renewed interest in ability to express thoughts and ideas in writing is surfacing in all aspects of society. This is being emphasized as change brings about new definitions of social and professional roles. This theory surfaces as educators begin to accept the added responsibility of providing adequate instruction in writing for advanced LEP students.

The cyclical theory of social change is the theory wherein cultures and society pass through continual cycles of growth and decay, challenges and responses. Sprenger viewed society as living organisms, each having a beginning, childhood in which it develops rapidly, a golden age, a slow decline, a final period of rapid disintegration leading to death. Toynbee stated that society develops in cyclical ways and that cycles can be repeated. The cycles begin with a challenge and response, and each challenge is met with a response. The cycles of challenge and response lead to a better civilization. The writer suggests that writing and writing instruction for the LEP students are in their beginning cycle and that the challenge is to find acceptable techniques, as well as meet the needs of the new LEP students, will bring about a much greater understanding
of the composing process, and better education for all students.

Ultimately, the goal of any education or training activity is to bring about desirable changes in the larger society, not only through the process of learning, but also through the development of new approaches to the learning process. The primary challenge of education and training is not only the task of having individuals, groups, and organizations assimilate new information, but to bring about a change in the behavior of the system through utilization of the information. (Lippitt, 1973)

Change is a part of the lives of every individual, group or organization. Change is a way of life, and each person is affected by it in varying degrees. Various levels of discomfort are experienced as change is thought about or its consequences are anticipated. As educators and employers begin to operate at greater levels of awareness and recognize that there are those individuals, groups and organizations that acquire greater benefits of change than others, signs of resistance are noted. Resistance is a natural force, however, it is possible that this can be overcome to some degree when everyone involved becomes informed and knowledgeable in the change process. It is greatly beneficial to understand the need for change, know that it is necessary for progress, know the anticipated outcomes, and understand ways of initiating, implementing and evaluating change.
Education by its very nature involves a commitment to change. It is a commitment to alter the behavior of a person (group or organization) functioning within his particular social, political, cultural, and technological environment. As we become involved in our specific educational endeavors, we have a tendency to oversimplify the factors and conditions which affect the problems we encounter. At the same time, we search for the formula which will provide the panacea for these problems. (Lippitt, 1973)

As change improves conditions the expectations of those involved grow. The change agent has the responsibility of leading in initiating change. Grossman stated that the change agent is the "bridge between human and organizational needs." In this respect, the change agent must possess talent, insight, understanding and flexibility. In the past, attempts to bring about change in the field of education have been left in the hands of those who were expected to initiate, implement and evaluate innovations in response to a specific need or pressure from various groups. In many instances, those charged with these responsibilities were unskilled and lacked training in techniques and procedures necessary for promoting change. It has been learned that in order for change to become more effective and lasting, the total school community must become involved and all must view themselves as change agents.

If all employees think like change agents, conflict and bickering would diminish. A bond develops between change agents who work together for a meaningful purpose. A healthy results-oriented unity is created
that frees them from the normal limitations of their jobs. Viewing the organization from a change prospective provides insight that is a valuable motivating force in pursuing and achieving productive change. (Grossman, 1974)

Glatthorn, Kean and Walsh have discussed change as it applies to research and writing instruction. They discussed the new emphasis placed upon writing instruction and writing as a process. Glatthorn emphasized:

"For years we taught composition by instinct and intuition, operating without the benefit of sound research. Now, however, that situation has changed. We know a great deal about how students write and what teachers can do to improve students' writing. (Glatthorn, 1981)

Kean discussed the previous attitudes toward writing and writing instruction, and the effects of change upon students' completed products. He stated that:

Too often, schools merely provided time for students to write rather than opportunities that would provide the interaction, models, and direct teaching that would encourage students to write better. . . . Within the last 25 years, systematic research on writing, as it is crafted and taught, has effected a change in our knowledge about ways to teach students to write effectively. In essence, our attitude has shifted from the written product itself to what the student does to produce that product. (Kean, 1983)

Walsh discussed the renewed emphasis on writing and new discoveries that are being made about the teaching of writing. He stated that greater awareness of writing as central to learning has aided in the "quickening" of changes in the process. He continued by stating that:
We are observing a worldwide awakening to the importance of writing. Writing is being seen as more than a skill, more than an instrument; it is increasingly perceived to be central to the learning process, significant in the social and personal life of the individual, and indispensible in many ways to modern society. . . . This has caused a quickening of changes in the teaching of writing, changes that began fairly unobtrusively in the mid-1960s . . . and now the teaching of writing is changing more rapidly than any other part of the curriculum. (Walshe, 1983)

The changing ethnic population of many school districts demands changes in teaching methods. The incoming students at all levels are required to become competent in various areas in order to meet grade and class competencies necessary for acceleration or graduation. Gere, Rochester Public Schools and Taylor have discussed the need for effective communication and the importance of change in these areas. Gere stated that the first and most important part of the change process is awareness of an issue. She offered these statements in an enlightened approach to language:

The English language changes continually and if it should cease to change, it will no longer be a sufficient medium for communication. (Gere, 1979)

The Rochester Public Schools discussed the importance of effective communication in a rapidly changing world. It was emphasized that:

The need for effective communication skills has become more crucial in our rapidly changing world. The aims and skills of language, composition and literature become, in essence, the survival skills demanded by our culture. Becoming competent speakers and writers and
critical readers and listeners is necessary . . . it is equally imperative that students develop these communicative skills to function effectively, not only in school, but even more importantly, in the classroom—outside the school. (Rochester Public Schools, 1978)

Taylor reported the findings regarding second language acquisition and writing. He reported that:

Recent writing in second language acquisition and classroom methodology have raised important questions about language learning and teaching. The observation that many students fail to acquire communication competence in the target language despite years of language instruction has prompted researchers, theoreticians, and teachers to question the effect of our current approaches. . . . Recent exploration into communicative-based language teaching has begun to identify some of the features of real communication which can have direct applicability to the development of communication methodology. (Taylor, 1983)

There is a great need for approaches and techniques designed to assist the limited-English proficient student in communicating effectively. The greatest of these needs lie in the area of writing. It is through writing that these students put to use learned skills in listening, speaking, and reading. It provides the students with opportunities to engage in more complex thought, and think more deeply. It also helps students to express ideas more precisely, and to provide proof of areas in which they are knowledgeable. Temple stated that writing is presently "undergoing a renaissance in the elementary classroom." It is this attitude that will lead teachers in providing for students appropriate methods, consequently, leading to
fluently, effective writing. Piele discussed the "person centered" approach as it relates to effective communication:

... the extent to which the "person-centered" orientation becomes dominant in the society at large will be reflected in the schools. Educational goals that will be emphasized in such a society include teaching students to become effective thinkers and learners, and develop their inquiry and problem-solving skills, and emotional awareness and self-identification. ... Education will be designed especially to ... promote freedom to explore and inquire, and to provide a responsive environment and directed challenges. (Piele, 1970)

Thenbury discussed the major responsibility of education and educators:

Education will have a major responsibility to prepare youth to accept and adjust to a rapidly changing society, and the nation's schools and colleges should seek to accept the responsibility by developing educational programs to prepare for these near cataclysmic changes. (Thenbury, 1980)

Research has provided new knowledge regarding writing and writing instruction. This information emphasized that writing is a vital tool, a way of discovering things about life, and a way of coming to know one's own knowledge. Understanding the process by which this skill can be taught so that students begin to express ideas fluently and effectively is a significant part of the composing process. Students can be guided to state ideas clearly when they become knowledgeable in the process. The purpose of education is to prepare all students,
limited–English as well as English speaking students, for living fulfilling, productive lives. The educational process includes both teaching and learning, and both the teacher and the learner have responsibility to the process. The teacher has the responsibility of giving the understanding and guidance that will create within the learner the desire to seek further knowledge. The learner has the responsibility of developing an awareness of skills necessary for attaining personal and career goals. Education is a continuous, lifelong process which takes place at all times, and in all situations. If we desire changes within the classroom and within the educational system, we must begin to share the responsibility for bringing about the necessary changes. In the role as change agent, with an understanding of the process of change and the need for change; all must abandon the search for "quick and easy" methods, "painless" techniques, and "perfect programs" developed and designed to meet the needs of all learners.

Bennis has stated that:

Any significant change in human organization involves a rearrangement of patterns of power, association, status, skills, and values. Some individuals and groups may benefit; others may lose. Some may view anticipated change as "threatening" and reject it. In any case, change typically involves risks and fear. (Grossman, 1974)
CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

Teaching writing means taking a leap of faith. It means acting as if we believe our students can write by reinforcing the strengths they have and trusting others to emerge. It means looking at our students' writing from a totally new perspective. (Nelson, 1983)

Writing and writing instruction have been researched for some time; however, research on the writing ability of the limited-English proficient student (LEP) is almost nonexistent. The need for techniques and methods designed to assist the LEP students in expressing themselves in writing has increased because of the growing numbers of non-English or limited-English speaking students enrolling in today's schools. The California State Department of Education in "Basic Principles for the Education of Language-Minority Students: An Overview" reported that:

Although limited-English proficient children have always comprised a significant proportion of California's school-age population, in recent years the public schools have enrolled ever-increasing numbers of students who come to school speaking a language other than English. . . . Unfortunately, it is generally recognized that the American system of public education has not been as successful in meeting the education needs of language minority students as it has with the general student population. (California State Department of Education, 1982)
The limited-English proficient students are expected to do well in today's schools, as well as become successful in completing all graduation requirements. These requirements include successfully completing the competency tests. The competency tests include reading and writing samples. Often, it is the failure of these students to achieve proficiency in writing that prevents their progressing to higher levels in school. Thus, this investigation was designed to seek an approach that would be useful in encouraging the LEP students to express their thoughts and ideas in writing clearly, fluently, and effectively.

The originality of the investigation lies in the formulation of a structured-insightful approach designed to assist LEP students in meeting with success in writing. In this study an experiment was conducted over a six month period during the 1984-85 school year. The subjects for this study were fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students who attended three of the Santa Clara Unified School District's elementary schools. These three schools were selected because of the number of students in their LEP population, and the similarity of some of the languages. This study sought to determine the effectiveness of the structured-insightful approach for students in three areas. It also sought to answer the following questions:
1. Is the structured-insightful approach effective for students as a group?

2. Is the structured-insightful approach more effective for one grade than another?

3. With which language group is the structured-insightful approach most effective?

The problem for this study was concerned with the fact that LEP 3 students remain in the English Language Acquisition Program (ELA) because of their lack of proficiency in writing. The students progress from beginning (LEP 1), and intermediate (LEP 2) levels, but remain in advanced (LEP 3) level since they fail to meet with success on the district's writing assessment. Therefore, the role of this investigation was to seek an approach that would be beneficial in assisting the LEP 3 students in expressing ideas with effectiveness, clarity, and fluency.

The following hypotheses were formulated and tested:

1. The structured-insightful approach to teaching limited-English proficient students to express themselves in writing is no more nor less effective than a less structured method for the students in this investigation.

2. In this investigation, there is a significant difference in the ability of limited-English proficient students to express themselves in writing which depends
upon their exposure to the structured-insightful approach to teaching.

This study presented a review of the recent literature on writing, a summary of the research on writing, and writing and the LEP student. It presented operating change theories and discussions on the need for change in the writing-instruction of the LEP student. It also presented discussion of the need for improvement of writing instruction for all students, and the need for students to recognize the importance of understanding the phases of the composing process, developing the necessary vocabulary, and remembering audience and purpose as measures of meeting success in writing.

Conclusions

The hypotheses tested brought forth significant and meaningful factors about the writing ability of LEP 3 students, and to the extent that these students are representative of all LEP 3 students, revealed these findings:
(Note: The factor of mobility of the LEP student is evident in the final results of this study.)

1. There is a statistically significant difference in the writing performance of LEP students having been exposed to the structured-insightful approach to teaching writing. The students in the experimental groups received
scores at a higher level than the control group in post-testing.

2. Boys in the experimental group failed to make greater gains than boys in the control group in post-testing; however, it is interesting to note that boys in the control group began by receiving higher pretest scores than the experimental group boys. Therefore, the experimental group boys were successful in demonstrating gains in their ability to express themselves in writing.

3. Girls in the experimental group scored statistically significantly better than girls in the control group with respect to posttest scores; however, in pretesting there was no significant difference in the scores received by both groups.

4. A comparison of girls and boys in pretesting suggested that girls scored higher than boys. This was also the observation of the posttest scores. The girls received higher level scores than boys on the posttest.

5. There was no meaningful comparison for fourth grade since there was only one student in fourth grade in the control group.

6. At the fifth grade level, all pretest scores for the experimental group were at level one or two, whereas the scores for all students in the control group were at
level two. From these results, it can be concluded that the fifth grade control group began at a higher level.

7. Fifth grade students in the experimental group scored significantly higher than the fifth grade students in the control group. It is interesting to note that all fifth grade control group students were girls.

8. In pretesting, there was no statistical significant difference in the scores of the experimental and control group students' scores; however, there was a significant difference in the posttest scores in sixth grade. The sixth grade experimental group scored at a higher level than the control group.

9. Most students in this investigation (experimental and control groups) demonstrated some gains in their ability to express themselves in writing. The experimental groups showed greater gains which can be attributed to the structured-insightful approach to teaching writing. The grade level demonstrating greatest gains was sixth.

10. Although there were no girls in the sixth grade control group, it is interesting to note that the boys in the control group received scores of level two or three in posttesting; whereas the boys in the experimental group received scores of level four.

11. The findings based on the data for this investigation have answered the questions under consideration and
revealed that the structured-insightful approach is effective in instructing LEP 3 students as a group, is effective in instructing girls, is effective in instructing Vietnamese students to the extent that these students are representative of all LEP 3 students.

The findings from this study further revealed that LEP 3 students can show improvement in ability to express themselves in writing. Several important considerations worthy of note appear to be:

1. LEP students require meaningful experiences and basic vocabulary centering about the experience. This activity provides for students of varying backgrounds some "common ground" for interaction, and provides the vocabulary necessary in giving students that forward thrust that accelerates beginning writing.

2. LEP students benefit from frequent experiences where objects and pictures are used as a focus. These objects may be presented by the students or the teacher; however, the resulting writing exercises can prove to be successful activities for the students.

3. LEP students write freely when they clearly understand the directions given and what they are expected to accomplish. They also respond favorably when they are
aware of the fact that their efforts at expressing ideas will be viewed with respect and these attempts praised.

4. LEP students' writing skills evolve in a similar manner as their native English speaking classmates. They begin by focusing or centering on a specific topic or idea which is made more meaningful through some shared experience.

5. LEP students will put forth their best effort when they are assured of the fact that their writing will be read, appreciated, and shared in some way. This sharing may take place with a writing partner, the teacher, the group, the whole class, or in a school publication.

6. LEP students respond favorably to a structured writing program where they have a good understanding of all the phases, are allowed to participate in them in a comfortable environment, and are given time for participation in the writing exercises.

7. LEP students respond favorably when they understand the purpose for the writing activity. The purpose may be to improve writing skills, to inform, to share knowledge of a subject or to entertain; however, this purpose should be stated clearly.

8. LEP students respond favorably when they are aware of the audience being addressed. The audience may be a friend, a classmate, the teacher, the public, or
themselves; however, it is important that students keep in
mind the audience being focused upon.

9. LEP students recognize the fact that good
writing and good writing ability are skills useful in
achieving success in school.

10. LEP students respond favorably to varying
writing topics; however, these topics must center about
their knowledge range.

Recommendations

One of the merits of this investigation is its
potential for further research in elementary, as well as
secondary, education. The findings indicate the need for
further research in the following areas:

1. LEP students appear to respond favorably when
they are expected to complete tasks on the basis of
structures, patterns, and routines. In light of this,
which structures, patterns or routines are most effective
in encouraging the LEP students to express themselves in
writing? Beginning ELA programs are centered in patterns
where students' responses are predictable. How can
students be encouraged to move to higher levels of per-
formance based on the learning internalized through this
process?
2. In this investigation students responded in writing to shared experiences presented by the writer. How can LEP students be encouraged to incorporate past meaningful experiences in rendering a composition more enlightening? Rich, frequent experiences seem to be the basis for effective writing. What can be done to encourage the LEP students to begin with old experiences and build in the new in order to integrate ideas?

3. In this investigation, the sixth grade students made greatest gains in writing improvement. To what extent is this based on level of maturity and the ability to transfer previously learned skills in their primary language? It may prove to be worthwhile to determine if students make greater progress utilizing the structured-insightful approach as they become more mature.

4. This investigation involved a small number of students at the elementary level. It would be beneficial to conduct the study using a larger population or to determine its effects at the secondary level. There is need for established approaches designed to increase students' writing ability at all levels. What effects would the structured-insightful approach have upon secondary LEP students? What effects would this approach have upon a greater number of LEP students? How would results differ or prove similar?
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APPENDICES
THE COMPOSING PROCESS

EXPERIENCING
- exploring
- inquiring
- discovering

PREPLANNING
- thinking
- reflecting
- anticipating

WRITING
- creating
- describing
- composing

REVISING
- refining
- restructuring
- recomposing

REWRITING
- clarifying
- explaining
- defining

SHAPING
- communicating
- learning
- appreciating

APPENDIX A

Sue P. Freeman
1984
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>strongly agree</th>
<th>agree</th>
<th>to opinion</th>
<th>disagree</th>
<th>strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>I must write well in order to do well in school.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>I usually have a good understanding of the subject I write about.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>As I write I begin to think of new ideas.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>I usually understand the purpose for my writing.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>When I write, I express my ideas for my teacher or myself.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>I believe adults respect the ideas I express in writing.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>I get new ideas for my writing from brain-storming activities.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>I learn new things about myself as I write.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>I usually choose the subjects I write about.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>I like to write about...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HOME LANGUAGE SURVEY

The California Education Code requires schools to determine the language(s) spoken at home by each student. This information is essential in order for schools to provide meaningful instruction for all students.

Your cooperation in helping us meet this important requirement is requested. Please answer the following questions and have your son/daughter return this form to his/her teacher. Thank you for your help.

Name of Student: ____________________________

1. Which language did your son or daughter learn when he or she first began to talk?

2. What language is your son or daughter most frequently used at home?

3. What language do you use most frequently to speak to your son or daughter?

4. Name the language most often spoken by the adults at home:

State of California
Department of Education
OPER - LS 77 B - 6/78

Date

School

Teacher

Signature of Parent or Guardian

from above
INITIAL IDENTIFICATION

NEW ENROLLEES
data on record of
primary language and
English language status

ADMINISTER
HOME LANGUAGE
TEST
ENGLISH
ONLY

ANY
APPROPRIATE
PROGRAM

PRIMARY LANGUAGE
OTHER THAN ENGLISH

ASSESS ENGLISH
COMPETENCE,
SPEAKING, READING,
AND WRITING

FEP

ANY
APPROPRIATE
PROGRAM

LEP

INITIAL PLACEMENT
IN AN SLP PROGRAM

1) Oral English proficiency must be assessed using a state-adopted instrument. For
purposes of initial identification, English reading and writing assessments are
optional for all pupils in grades K-2, and for pupils in grades 3-12 who are LEP on
the basis of oral skills alone. The reading and writing skills of other pupils must
be assessed. Each district shall establish a process by which reading and writing
assessments are to be made, including specification of criteria, instruments, scores,
and standards appropriate to each grade level, to be used for identification of
pupils as LEP.

2) Pupils in K-2 meeting criteria on oral proficiency tests in English are designated FEP
unless the optional reading and writing assessments are given, and they score below
district-established standards. Pupils in grades K-12 scoring below on oral profici-
cy tests in English are classified as FEP if they score at or above the district-
established standards in both reading and writing.

3) Pupils in K-2 meeting oral criteria on oral proficiency tests in English are classified
as LEP. Pupils in grades K-12 scoring below, and those scoring below who also
score below district-established standards for reading and/or writing, are classified
as LEP.
My first plan to visit Hawaii.
First thing I like about Hawaii is the
dead and young all wearing andotel between.
I like Hawaii because the warm and beach
and my aunt lives at Hawaii.

I never went to Hawaii and
I hope I could see this summer or next.
When I get to Hawaii I would go to the
beach.
My favorite place is K mart because it's cheap and they got cheap things and I like their toys and I like their things.
I like to ride a bike.

Document Illegible
Before editing/trimming

AMS
My Favorite Place

My favorite place is Mexico and we have parties and we eat money w. family. Then we get candy and bread the foreign east of Mexico. Mexico is my favorite place to spend at for one year and go to school there so I can get smarter at and if I don’t go I am still going to understand Mexico. That’s why we all want to go on every year so we can have fun at Mexico. The second place is Hawaii it is the second of the last I like and I want to win there and learn because I have gone there two times Hawaii.
My favorite place is Great America. I like to go there because I like the rides and food. Also, I like the shopping. I like to go to the stores there. I like the clothes.
I have been here three days and I
love it. I wish I could stay longer.
I have decided to go to the
arcade. It's fun. I think I'll stay.
I want to go there tomorrow,
but I don't know the
admission.
My favorite place was Great America because it is fun and scary. I like to ride roller coasters and eat their good food. I also love to play games and win some dolls.
My favorite place in Hawaii. I like Hawaii because they have nice trees and cool beaches. Hawaii is the place I always wanted to go. The beaches have great food and great surfing. I love Hawaii because by the afternoon you can go in the ocean and see the sun going down. If I were to travel to Hawaii then I grew up with my best friend.

I've never been to Hawaii in my entire life. If I go there after I grew up with my best friend then we would go to the beach and go swimming. Then we can go hiking and also fish with the guys out after we get to go shopping and go out for swimming.
tine-day-February
Tuesday 17th, April

Saw the Saints Los Angeles.

California
My favorite place

I love to go fishing. When I catch a fish, I like to do it, but sometimes the fish gets stuck in my throat. The place I like to go to fish is called the lake. I like to go swimming in the lake.

My favorite place is a lake between Oregon and California, and a friend named Jimmy and his family. The lake I tried to catch a fish but I only got a bite, so we went back home.
My Favorite Place

My favorite place is Great America. It is fun there. You could ride whatever you want. Some I like to ride the Demon, the Log ride, and the logging run. I always went together all the time. The rides are great. That's why they called it Great America.

On Sunday, I went to Great America and we had sundaes with chocolate ice cream. Then we went to every ride. I rode on the Demon. It was scary, but I had a good time. And maybe I might go there again.
My favorite place.

My favorite place is Great America. I like this place because it has great rides, shows and food. They have characters like Bugs Bunny, Porky Pig, Yosemite Sam, Tall Guck, and the Smurfs. I like their rides. Their rides really carry me away.
My favorite place

My favorite place is Toys R Us. I like it because I like the store-reviews.
My mother said, "I'm so happy that we can see each other again."

"I think it's time to move out of the house," I said.

"We can get a new apartment," she added, "and maybe start a new life together."

I nodded, "I agree. Let's make this happen."
VITAE

Education

My early years were spent in Alabama where I completed my undergraduate work at Tuskegee Institute. I graduated in 1957 with a major in English and a minor in Social Studies. My graduate work was completed at San Francisco State University where I received a master's degree in 1977 in Elementary Education. I completed my studies at California State University, Dominguez Hills and received a Reading Specialist Credential in 1979.

Employment

My career as a teacher began in 1961. At that time I taught English at Wenonah High School in Alabama. Later I became a resident of California where I have taught in three school districts. I have taught all elementary grades and served as Math Resource teacher in the Los Angeles City Schools. I taught upper elementary grades and served as teacher librarian in the Oakland Public Schools. In the Santa Clara Unified School District I have worked as Reading-Language Specialist, lead learning center teacher, and English-Language Acquisition Teacher. My present responsibility in the Santa Clara Schools is that of English-Language Acquisition Resource Teacher.
Activities

For several years, I have been involved in activities designed to assist students and teachers in becoming more knowledgeable, skillful, and appreciative of the composing process. I was trained in 1981 and presently serve as writing consultant for the South Bay Writing Project. I serve as coordinator of the Santa Clara Unified School District's Young Writers' Exposition. I also serve as facilitator of the Santa Clara County Young Author's Faire. Additionally, I am a member and participate in the activities sponsored by the Delta Kappa Gamma Sorority.