

THE RESOURCEFUL TEACHER Series

Sample

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Creative Writing

Activities to help students produce meaningful texts

*...the parameters of the...
...The editions maintain the living...
...which teachers need in compiling...
...is upon literature adjacent to...
...The focus...*



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Letters in which Students Tell You about Themselves as Writers

Level: Lower intermediate to advanced

Time: 20–30 minutes

Preparation: Write a letter to your students in which you tell them about all the different types of writing you have done in your time: kitchen-table notes, love letters, diary entries, school essays, poems, summaries, text messages, stories you wanted to write, letters of complaint, letters of apology, playscripts etc ...
Tell them how you feel about writing in your mother tongue, and how you feel about writing in English.
Tell them what sort of a writer you reckon you are – keen? reluctant? lyrical? prosaic? creative? careful?
End by asking them to write you a similar sort of letter, one page long, about how they see themselves as writers. Tell them that only you will read this letter.
Copy your letter so each student will get one.

Lesson outline

1. Give the students your letter, and ask them to read it silently. If your written instruction at the end of the letter is clear, they will start writing their replies.
2. Collect the replies, and read them at home with great care. They are full of vital information that will enable you to treat each person in your writing class in ways appropriate to them. A student who declares that they hate writing in both their mother tongue and English clearly needs more of your support and help than another who says they love the written word in any language.

Rationale

We have found this exercise very useful at the start of a writing class, especially one leading to an important exam.