

PIT 454:

Mastering Students to Write Effective Essays

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ABSTRACT

- *Essay writing – important aspects*
- *Form 4 students – first time without guidance - not able to write or expand the points correctly and effectively*
- *several activities have been carried out*
- *shown drastic performance resulted*

REFLECTIONS ON PREVIOUS TEACHING AND LEARNING

PROBLEM

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graph TD; A[PROBLEM] --- B[Write more than 350 words]; A --- C[To expand or elaborate the content points]; A --- D[Essays not effective and show lack of maturity]; A --- E[Do not hand in the essays];
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Write more
than 350
words

To expand
or
elaborate
the content
points

Essays not
effective
and show
lack of
maturity

Do not
hand in the
essays

PIT 454

P – “Pendahuluan” (Introduction)

I – “Isi” (Main (Points))

T – “Tutup” (Closing)

4 – 4 sentences in an introductory paragraph

5 – 5 sentences in each paragraph that elaborates a point, and 5 points in an essay

4 – 4 sentences in a closing paragraph

FOCUS OF THE STUDY

- Form 4 students for Bahasa Malaysia subject specifically Paper I (essay writing)
- good results for Bahasa Malaysia paper in SPM 2010

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

General objective

write good essays according to the outlined criteria

Specific Objective

underline important terminologies and key words appeared in the question

say out the formula in writing an essay

list 11 types of sentences needed in an essay including one interesting phrase

draft the essay during learning session

write introduction and closing paragraphs during learning session

write a complete essay given a time frame

TARGET GROUP

- 35 students from Form 403 of SMK Sungai Layar, Sungai Petani, Kedah Malaysia
- 11 boys and 24 girls
- scored either A or B grade for their Bahasa Malaysia paper in PMR 2008

ACTION TAKEN

Activity 1 (WHO AM I)

Activity

- introducing specific terms used in essay writing

Observation

- excitedly filling in the blanks in the table by choosing the words provided in the questions
- compared their answers with their friends
- demand a confirmation from teacher
- argued with their friends and teacher

Reflections

- easy activity and appeal to the students
- able to grasp, understand and apply the specific vocabulary for other essay questions

ACTION TAKEN

Activity 2 (5 IPT)

Activity

- explains about the formula of essay

Observation

- easily remember the given formula since the numbers used in the formula are small.

Reflections

- helps the students to remember on the needs of the five points listed for the essay

ACTION TAKEN

Activity 3 (TRUE FALSE)

Activity

- explains on the technique to write an essay

Observation

- early stage - the students need to refer to the notes with types of sentences required in essay writing.
- after 2 or 3 times - they are already used to it

Reflections

- able to list down all types of sentences needed

ACTION TAKEN

Activity 4 (LET'S SHOOT - List and Structure/Frame)

Activity

- List down the main/important points related to the topic (List)
- Used those points to write the structure of the essay correctly (Structure/Frame)
- Use checklist to ensure the students do not leave out important aspects which needed to be included in their essay

Observation

- carried out individually, students tend to spend more time listing the relevant content points
- easier to brainstorm and list out the relevant content points after they carry out group discussion

Reflections

- they will not make repetitions, incomplete content points and other mistakes while writing

ACTION TAKEN

Activity 5 (INTRODUCTION AND CLOSING)

Activity

- write the required sentences (4 sentences) in each introductory paragraph and closing paragraph.

Observation

- list of the essay outline in Activity 4 helps students a lot
- ensure that they are using the types of sentences required as there is a difference in the introductory and closing paragraph.

Reflections

- able to write introductory and closing paragraph within the time given

ACTION TAKEN

Activity 6 (DONE)

Activity

- completed their paragraphs of content points at home and handed the essay to the teacher to be checked according to the SPM level of marking scheme.

Observation

- able to complete the task within the time given.

Reflections

- no more problems to complete the tasks given
- more confident in doing their work

REFLECTION OF THE RESEARCH

BEFORE

not having ideas
to list down the
content points

Cannot write essay
more than 350
words

did not show
maturity

Did not do the
homework
because of absent

AFTER

group work

refer to the
outline

fulfill the criteria
required

still complete the
task at anytime

SUGGESTION FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

- more intervention is required to help students' acquisition of grammatically correct sentence construction
- An essay is not only assessed by the number of content points and number of words that the students can write but good acquisition of grammar and sentence construction is also compulsory.