

Report of the Action Research Project on Essay Writing

Joyceline Sharmila

Convenor, ELTAI Thoothukudi Chapter & Principal, Annamalai College of Education, Thoothukudi

The proposal of the Action Research Project on Essay Writing submitted by Thoothukudi chapter was approved and the project work started from September 2018. Twenty four prospective teachers studying in I BEd at Annammal College of Education for Women, Thoothukudi were chosen to get training in Essay Writing. Causes for the problems in essay writing are poor vocabulary, lack of ideas and lack of writing in logical sequence. The investigator believed if systematic training is given the students' essay writing skill can be improved.

A one-day workshop on essay writing was arranged with a view of giving exposure to expert training. On 14/09/2018 Dr.Revathi Viswanathan, Professor & Head, Department of English, BSA Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai served as a resource person and all the participants were oriented on the different kinds of essays and how to write an essay in an inspiring way. Problems in essay writing were identified to be due to poor vocabulary, lack of ideas and lack of writing in a logical sequence. She gave models of best essays to the participants. In the workshop basic sentence structures and how to use key words effectively in different essays were taught.

Followed by the presentation Dr.A.Joycilin Shermila, Convenor of the ELTAI Thoothukudi Chapter, conducted a brain storming session on the topic 'My Concept

of a Good Teacher'. Students were asked to write an essay on 'My Concept of a Good Teacher' and that was the first essay they wrote.

Each student was helped to create a blog and they uploaded their essays in their blogs. It was planned to post an essay every month. Following are the essays students have posted in their individual blogs –

- October - My Concept of a Good Teacher
- November - My Childhood Experiences
- December - Significance of ICT in Teaching and Learning
- January - Is Social Networking Necessary for Students?
- February - Every person is an Architect of his own Future (Essay writing competition)

Following are few sample URLs of the blogs –

1. priyadharshini1114.blogspot.com
2. Snega1997.blogspot.com
3. Ayswarya97.blogspot.com
4. 1avijit9.blogspot.com
5. prafina21.blogspot.com

In February, a competition was conducted among the participants and the topic "Every person is an architect of his own future" was given. Students were made to write the essay in the class under the supervision of a teacher. Duration for writing the essay

was 40 minutes. Papers were collected and were valued by the following two members of ELTAI Thoothukudi chapter: Dr.V.Chanthiramathy, Associate Professor, PG & Research Department of English, VOC College, Thoothukudi, and Dr.S.Rasul Mohaideen, Associate Professor of English, VOC College of Education, Thoothukudi.

They valued all the 24 papers and finalized the winners of the essay competition. Following are the three students who won

prizes:

1. P.Thriveni (Books worth Rs.1500)
2. K. Sharone Snowfana (Books worth Rs.1000)
3. S.Sweetlin Mercy (Books worth Rs.500)

As planned the first three participants will be given prizes during the 57th College day of Annammal College of Education which is planned to be held on 16th March, 2019.

Journal of English Language Teaching (Survey)

Dear readers

The 5Ws and the H will be handy to enhance the skill to question and arouse curiosity. The *Journal of English Language Teaching*, published by the English Language Teachers Association of India, is the oldest ELT journal in India. Launched in 1965, the journal has been a platform for teachers of English and scholars to publish their research work. Of late, globally well-known ELT experts and researchers including Stephen Krashen and Richard Smith contribute regularly to the journal. We need to constantly improve the quality of the journal in order to serve the ELT community in India better. We would like to get your feedback on the journal and your suggestions to make it a reputed journal. We do appreciate your feedback and suggestions. Please send your responses to the Editor at JELTIndia@gmail.com

1. Are you a member of the English Language Teachers' Association of India (ELTAI)?
 - i) Yes
 - ii) No
2. Type of membership
 - i) 1 year
 - ii) 3 years
 - iii) 10 years
3. How long have been subscribing to the Journal of English Language Teaching?
 - i) More than 10 years
 - ii) 6-10 years
 - iii) 1-5 years
 - iv) Less than a year
4. Do you read ...?
 - i) All the articles
 - ii) Only the articles that you find interesting/relevant/useful
 - iii) Undecided
5. What type of articles do you find very useful?
 - i) Research-based articles
 - ii) Reports of action research
 - iii) Interviews with experts
 - iv) Reading /Writing activities
 - v) Book reviews
 - vi) App reviews
 - vi) Any other
6. Have your articles been published in JELT?
 - i) Yes
 - ii) No
7. Are you interested in getting your articles published in JELT?
 - i) If 'yes', why?
 - ii) If 'no', why?
8. How would you rate the timeliness of the articles published in the journal?
 - i) Excellent
 - ii) Good
 - iii) Fair
 - iv) Poor
 - v) Don't know
9. How would you rate quality of the articles?
 - i) Excellent
 - ii) Good
 - iii) Fair
 - iv) Poor
 - v) Don't know
10. What are your suggestions for improving the quality of the journal?