Annotated Bibliography of Writing Resources

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Program Resources

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WRITING RESOURCES

This bibliography contains books, articles, and internet addresses that would be helpful for teachers looking for new strategies or theories about the teaching of writing. Along with each bibliographic entry is a very brief summary or explanation of the work. Many of these works were not geared specifically for adult education teachers of writing; however, most of the points in them are easily transferred to the adult education classroom. Bibliographic entries with an asterisk next to the author’s name are available for loan from the OLRC library. Those works not having an asterisk should be easily available at most libraries. This is certainly not an exhaustive list, but rather, a good beginning. If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact Bryan Bardine at the OLRC at 1-800-765-2897, ext. 19.


An outstanding book that looks at a teacher’s development as an educator as well as a learner among her students. It shows the importance of learning as much from our students as they learn from us. The book is loaded with “the details of conducting conferences in reading and writing, mini-lessons, working with various genres, the uses of time, grading and proofreading” (Foreword). Essentially, the book focuses on the teaching of middle and junior high school teachers, but as with many of the books on this list, the ideas and techniques are easily transferred to the adult education classroom.


Calkins is a well-respected teacher, researcher, and author whose main focus in this book is developing ways to help children become better writers. Although geared toward teachers of children, the book offers many important points about different aspects of teaching writing. For instance, she discusses the importance of writing conferences and some different types of conferences; she also talks about mini-lessons, and editing. She examines several different modes of writing including learning logs, poetry, teaching fiction, writing across the curriculum, and enabling students to be the teachers. Obviously, everything in this book is not applicable to adult education, but much of it can be transferred to the adult classroom.
Elbow, Peter. (1981). Writing with power: 
Techniques for mastering the writing 

Elbow, the well-known teacher and author, attempts 
to help the writer “gain power over words and 
readers” (note to the reader). The book can be used 
as a handbook for teachers who want to help their 
writers write more persuasively or “make contact 
with their readers” (note to the reader). Another excellent book by Peter Elbow—Writing without 
teachers.

teaching writing: Quick lessons that help 
students become effective writers. New 
York: Scholastic Professional Books.

Although many of the lessons seem to be designed 
for kids, they are easily adaptable to the adult 
education classroom. This book gives several 
excellent lessons and writing prompts that will help 
in student development.

Freedman, Sarah Warshauer. (1994). What’s 
involved?: Setting up a writing exchange. 
Berkeley, CA: Center for the Study of 
Writing, University of California.

In this article, Freedman looks at how she learned 
about the idea of a writing exchange and explains a 
study using ten pairs of teachers who conducted 
their own writing exchanges.

practice of writing. London: 
AddisonWesley Longman Limited.

A collection of chapters dealing with different ways 
to approach the teaching of writing. Primarily written 
for secondary and post-secondary teachers, the 
ideas and themes presented in the book are easily 
transferable to the adult classroom. It also contains 
some information on writing theory and various 
purposes for writing.

Graves, Donald. (1994). A fresh look at 

In this book, Graves examines a variety of topics 
and issues that he has written about in the past. 
He discusses ways to use portfolios, record 
keeping, methods for teaching conventions, and 
spelling in a multitude of genre—including 
fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Also, he tries to 
emphasize the importance of maintaining writing 
in your life. Some other books about writing by 
Donald Graves:

Explore poetry
Build a literate classroom
Writing: Teachers and children at work
A researcher learns to write
The reading/writing teacher’s companion 
series

me Mrs. K.: Talking, reading and writing 
with resistant adolescent learners. 
Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

This book, written by an elementary and middle 
school teacher from Shaker Heights, OH, 
examines ways to teach reading and writing to 
resistant students. Although originally written for 
teachers of adolescents, much of the content of 
this excellent text transfers to adult learners as 
well. Very readable and interesting.

MacRorie, Ken. (1988). The I-Search paper: 
Revised edition of searching writing. 
Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

An innovative book that treats students as partners in 
learning by helping them to gain 
control of their own learning. Has been termed a 
context book “that shows students what authority 
is in matters of learning and invites them to join 
the author and teacher in the educational 
movement called “Writing to Learn” (p.1).

Connections: A journal of adult literacy—
Catching ourselves in the act: Writing about teaching writing. 6, (1).

This journal is dedicated to the teaching of essay writing—particularly for the GED. The articles are primarily written by adult educators, for adult educators, and a variety of teaching techniques and approaches are discussed throughout the journal. This volume contains nine separate articles.


Murray is one of the foremost teachers and researchers about the teaching of writing, and this is one of his best books. He details his process in writing a particular article about his grandmother. He takes the reader through every step in this process, and he gives examples, explanations, and sound advice throughout. Also, he uses other authors' opinions and quotes throughout the book to help explain his process. Other books or collections by Murray include:

Learning by teaching
Shoptalk: Learning to write with writers
Expecting the unexpected: Teaching myself and others to read and write


A collection of chapters examining various aspects of research done about writing. The book includes topics such as error analysis, revision, learning to write in school settings, and the writing process.


A well-known and excellent book that gives teachers some important information about how basic writers learn such things as handwriting, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, sentence, paragraph, and essay development. The book is full of examples as well.


A great book for those interested in getting families interested in writing. Stillman emphasizes
the importance of writing for everyone, and he tries to relay his point of view by showing the connections that writing can draw with the past, present, and future. Another excellent book by Peter Stillman is Writing your way.


Here is a list of some interesting web sites that concern writing:

**www.refdesk.com**—check under the section called homework help; there are several good writing resources.

**www.gse.berkeley.edu/Research/NWP/nwp.html**—This is the web site for the National Writing Project. It describes the purpose and function of the National Writing Project. An excellent section called “Teacher Research On-Line” was very helpful for me as I browsed the site. Another section that was a great deal of help was entitled “Other WWW sites for Teachers and Learners.”

**www.sixthfloor.com/TIPI.html**—This site is part of the Houghton-Mifflin Company’s web site. It contains an interesting section about multimedia resources for writing teachers.

**webnz.com/wnp/onlineintro/alpha/finding.htm**—This site is part of “The On-line Journal of Teaching Adults,” a place for students to publish completed work.

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414 WHITE HALL, P.O. BOX 5190, KENT, OH 44242-0001
1-800-765-2897 OR 330-672-2007
E-MAIL ADDRESS: olrc@literacy.kent.edu WEB SITE: literacy.kent.edu