**How to Motivate Students to Write**

**Lee Hyun-jung (Elly)**

It’s definite that students need to be motivated to write like other English skills regardless of their English levels. Every teacher might see students responding in a negative way like “What? With English? How? I don’t know how to write!” to the teacher’s request “Write a passage in English!” Many students feel writing skill is the most difficult out of four skills. Thus, the teacher is required to give them encouraging motivation to make them write in English.

The most important thing to motivate students is to make them be aware of the clear purpose. The purpose is different according to what function the writing activities focus on. However, if students have the clear purpose of the writing, they are willing to participate in writing to achieve the goal. Therefore, it’s necessary for the teacher to provide the writing activities that have definite and concrete purpose.

The second thing is to make students have self-confidence to succeed in writing a passage in English. Many students are concerned about English writing because they doubt their ability and are afraid of making mistakes. I think teacher’s role is very important to this part. What teachers have to do is providing psychologically comfortable environment and frequent verbal praise no matter how well the writing is. This atmosphere increase students’ self-confidence and it also makes it possible to do the following writing activities.

The next thing to motivate students is rewarding which is external motive. Even though external motive is not permanent but temporary, it can be the power that makes students start writing. I have my own rewarding system when I teach them and I often see the system work well. Certainly the teacher needs to decide what character students have because rewarding system seems to depend on their characteristics. Teachers have to keep in mind that rewarding is not fundamental, everlasting motive.

Also, kinds of writing activities have an effect on students’ motivation, I think. There are several kinds of writing activities like guided writing, free writing. It is hard to say which writing is effective to motivate students. Sometimes, students want a certain form to create their writing, which can make the writing easier. However, in some cases, they want to write their opinion freely without any constraints. Thus, teachers’ role is to choose the most appropriate writing activity according to the topic and the preference of the students.

The last thing that I can say is the motivation through feedback about students’ writing. I think feedback should be accompanied with the writing activities. Otherwise, students may not determine if their writing achieves the goal or is well organized or has any grammatical errors. Those things are information by which students can improve their writing. Feedback should include different factors such as language form, the content, function of the writing by the level of students. For the low levels, too much grammatical feedback can be discouraging. In contrast, grammatical or lexical feedback for the high levels is helpful to level up students’ writing. Feedback must be always given in a positive way.

I hope what I mentioned so far will be helpful to motivate the students to write. To be honest, I haven’t tried much to make students write in English because I had kind of prejudice that writing is the most difficult skill to teach. Besides, I felt time limitation a lot. However, in a reality that we don’t have many chances to speak in English, writing is absolutely important means to express our own opinion in English even for students. As a teacher, I’m going to give it a shot to encourage students to write with those strategies, which will be the first step for the students to acquire their writing skill.