

## **Learning Activity:** Point Of View Essay

**Learning Behaviours:** ...Retrieving prior knowledge/Coaching each other/Listening/Justifies opinions/Learning from others/Getting started/Planning/Checking and editing work/Reflection.....

**Teacher:** LWP

**DATE:** 1/5/05

**Class:** 9A

The students had to complete a Point of View essay on topic of Were T.V. families realistic. We had done some introductory work and then they were given a number of tasks to complete before they attempted the essay.

They did some group work where they selected one T.V. family and started to compile all they knew about this family. They were then given some time on the internet to research more information and when they felt they knew enough each group produced a poster and an oral report on the family they had studied.

After this I gave the students the topic above and explained what was expected of them in a POV essay. I had intended to have them all complete an essay plan but I was convinced by the students to let them attempt it in their own way. We discussed the different ways they could start, a plan, a brainstorm, dive write in and I let them loose.

At the end of this I got the students to reflect the how they got started and how well they worked on the essay.

Most students like to be able to get started in their own way and not be limited by the one style.

Most felt they had worked ok.

Straight after this I got the students to complete and argumentative essay in a much more formal way and then compare the two processes.

The thing I learnt was I had to give more time and maybe direction to the student Journals

**Discussion Tool:** Observation /Reflection /Discussion / Journal

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## Student Comments

Essay Plan!

I think I went well at doing the essay and I produced an ok essay plan.

I decided to choose the 3<sup>rd</sup> option which was brainstorming down some ideas. I got 5 down in the one lesson that we had.

27/04/05

Essay Plan TV families are Not Realistic

How I went I nearly got my brainstorm finished

Style I used I chose to start by doing a brainstorm on all the reasons why TV families are Not Realistic

How I worked I think that I worked quite well and used my time wisely. I'm not usually very keen to do brainstorming, I would rather just go ahead and get the job done.

T.V. Family's!

What was good?  
It was fun thinking of the ideas.

What was bad?  
I hate essays because can never start the reason why. Trying to get it 300 words or more.

What I learnt!  
That tv families have so many reasons why there are real.

How could have I done better?

- More examples
- More reasons

How you went → I went alright. I got my pre writing task done and I started on my essay.

Style you used/why → I used a pre/post writing task because I thought it was the best way to plan my essay.

How you worked → I worked good but I could have started a bit quicker.

## Teacher Journal

### **What is my intention? What do I want to achieve?**

My intention was to have the class complete a lot of varied and “fun” activities in preparation to writing a Point Of View essay. There was lots of group work, discussion and interaction between the students in small groups and as a class.

### **What happened?**

Generally the students enjoyed the activities but found the whole process too long. Many felt that they weren’t producing anything and were becoming frustrated. The idea of getting them to do different, “fun” activities didn’t negate the students’ negativeness to “having to do an essay”

### **What was my role?**

Initiate the activities, facilitate the group and class work and discussion

### **What feelings and senses surround the event?**

While the students were doing the activities there was a buzz in the room. There was a sense that the students were enjoying themselves and completing the tasks well

### **What was I thinking? What was I feeling?**

I thought it was all going very well

### **What were the important elements of the event?**

The group work and the whole class reports

### **What was the outcome?**

The students produced some very good essays and showed they understood the elements of a POV essay.

### **What do I think the students got out of the event?**

Improved group work skills. Understanding of essay style

### **What might I change next time around?**

I think I over did the activities especially on a topic they were very familiar with any way.