Instructional Strategies and Activities for Writing

For *Emerging* level English Learners

English Learners can write in their home language if they are literate. Translate their writing to get a sense of their writing skills. Writing activities include:

- Draw pictures and talk about the picture (pre-writing).
- Form letter formations if not familiar with the Latin alphabet.
- Copy their name, words, and sentences to practice letter formation.
- Copy words from the board (only for very new arrivals).
- Write simple words as they learn to decode them.
- Draw pictures and write labels.
- Follow a model. ("My name is <u>Tom</u>. I am <u>15</u> years old. I come from <u>Canada</u>. I like to play <u>basketball</u>. I have <u>two brothers</u>.")
- Take dictation. (Write "I go to the park.")
- Provide sentence starters. (This is a _____. I like to eat ____. My favorite ___ is ____.)
- Expand sentences. (I have a dog. I have a <u>large black</u> dog)
- Provide a paragraph frame.
- (First, _____. Then, _____. Next, _____. Finally, _____.)
- (_____ is the best movie. Reason 1: _____. Reason 2: _____. Reason 3:_____. That's why I think _____ is the best movie.)

For *Progressing* level English Learners

Writing activities include:

- Talk about a topic before writing to discuss ideas, vocabulary, and possible sentences.

- Provide vocabulary needed for the writing topic.

- Teach connecting words (first, next, then, finally).

- Provide mini lessons on sentence structure.

- Use graphic organizers and sentence frames.

- Provide a model of the writing product.

- Teach explicitly how to write different types of sentences.

- Provide guided practice in sentence writing (e.g., past tense sentences, joining sentences, varying sentences).

- Present how to write in a variety of genres (e.g., narrative, opinion, argument).

- Provide opportunities for quick writes in all content areas as well as more supported extensive writing.

These resources aim to bolster academic, student wellness, and college and career outcomes for Ohio's English Learners. Resources were created through a collaborative effort between the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce and The Ohio State University's Center on Education and Training for Employment along with a dedicated group of family advocates, community leaders, school district staff, and teachers.