

Title:

Why Johnny Can't Write

Word Count:

504

Summary:

Johnny is a creative story-writer, but he can't write an essay to save his life. Does this ring a bell?

Keywords:

teachers, education, essay, strategies, kids, writing

Article Body:

Johnny is a creative story-writer, but he can't write an essay to save his life. Does this ring a bell?

Johnny has had some good writing instruction. He can recite the steps of The Writing Process from memory.

However, if you give Johnny a writing prompt, asking him to "Compare and contrast the cultural differences between the United States and another country," he will struggle.

Unfortunately, most of the writing that Johnny will need to complete throughout his academic career will be essays.

Students need to learn how to write structured essays designed to inform and convince their teachers.

For example, assign a "1" to introductory strategies, a "2" to the thesis statement, a "3" to the body paragraphs, and a "4" to the conclusion.

Teach structural variety by having students write 3-4-5-4-5 paragraphs and revise with 3-4-5-5-3 paragraphs.

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