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Motivating Writers in the AI Era

Practical Approaches for Real Classrooms

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Today, we are going to talk about

- Motivation
- Writing
- Using AI

Before we start —

Think of a writing activity that actually worked for your classes. What made it work?

Tell the person sitting next to you.
Write down some notes so you don't forget.

We'll come back to your answers later.

Why do some students resist or dislike writing?

This is not a hypothetical question.
I want to know what you think.

The problem isn’t always English language ability

No audience

Students write for the teacher or for the task.

Nothing feels real.

High stakes

In school, writing feels like a test.

Mistakes feel permanent.

No ownership

The topic, the format, the purpose are decided by someone else.

We can work on these

What does collaboration mean?

Working together to create something neither of you could make alone.

Warm-up

Story Cubes

8 minutes • With your elbow partner

1. Look at the dice on screen. What do you see?
2. With your elbow partner, tell a short story using 4-5 of the images. Keep it brief.
3. Add your story to the Padlet (QR code on the next slide)

Low stakes. No right answers. Just tell a story.

Roll the dice.

1. *Tell your story.*
2. *Write it (type it).*
3. *Upload to Padlet when you're ready.*

https://tinyurl.com/47n8sfc2

Round 1

Genre Swap with AI

15 minutes • Your section of the room • Your favorite AI tool

1. Open the Padlet and find the story from the warm-up.
2. Open your AI tool — ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot, whatever you use.
3. Three sections of the room will have different prompts.
   Use the prompt on the next slide.

Read what comes back. Discuss with your neighbor: What changed? What stayed the same?

Genre Swap — Your prompt for AI

Section 1 — Descriptive	Rewrite this story as a descriptive paragraph. Focus on sensory details — what does it look, sound, feel, and smell like? Do not add new plot events.
Section 2 — Dialogue	Rewrite this story as a dialogue between two characters. Use only their conversation — no narration.
Section 3 — What Happens Next	Continue this story in the same style. Add one short paragraph. Do not summarize what already happened — just continue it.

How could you use this in your classes?

Talk with the people around you. 2 minutes.

How do we make this foster student creativity?

These are sparks.

The AI output is a starting point, not the end product. Students react to it, argue with it, improve on it.

What happens next becomes a conversation.

Student writes → AI continues → student redirects → AI continues. Back and forth. The student is always in control.

Genre shift to help teach genre.

Students compare the original and the AI version. What changed?
What are the characteristics of each type?
They discover it themselves.

Round 2

AI as a Writing Partner

Live demo • One paragraph from the Padlet

I'll take one of your paragraphs and show you what happens when we ask ChatGPT for feedback.

The prompt:

"Give kind, helpful feedback on this paragraph. Suggest specific improvements or corrections, but do not rewrite it for me."

Could your students do this themselves — with a partner, without you?

Why this works — the theory

Audience

The Padlet creates real readers. It’s not just for the teacher.

Low stakes

A collaborative story shared with the room carries no individual failure.

Ownership

They chose how to respond. The AI works on their words, not a textbook prompt.

Agency

Deciding what to accept from AI feedback is a critical thinking act. That’s the lesson.

Remember what you wrote at the start? (a writing activity that worked)

Did any of that happen today?

Three things you can use Monday

1

Story Cubes + Genre Swap

Roll dice → elbow partner story → upload to shared doc → thirds of the class transform it with AI.

2

AI as Writing Partner

“Give kind feedback. Suggest improvements. Do not rewrite it for me.” Students use this themselves, with a partner.

3

The Back-and-Forth

Student writes → AI continues → student redirects. Repeat. The student stays in control of the story.

Before you go —

Add one sentence to the Padlet:

> ***“One thing I’ll try with my students.”***

Resources and your contributions live here after the session.

https://tinyurl.com/47n8sfc2

- Scan to contribute + explore

Thank you.

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

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