The feedback awakens: enhancing writing revision with e-portfolios

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Do you have problems motivating students to rewrite?

What strategies have you used to address this?
Research question + action taken

Q: What effects do e-portfolios have on students’ academic writing?

Action: Weekly writing task using Wikispaces
Welcome to UEEC 10!

As you indicated in the survey that you would like to continue using Workspaces for UEEC 10 we are going to continue using this space for peer and teacher feedback, rewriting and sharing information about writing.

Links to pages in workspaces:
- UEEC writing criteria
- Common writing errors
- Writing correction code
- James page (contains model essays)

Links to external websites:
- Writing resources from Moodle
- Reporting words (from Uni of Adelaide)
- Nominalisation information and exercises:
  - UEFAP
  - Academic English Online
  - Uni:Learning
- Paraphrasing, quoting, summarising and synthesising
- Start here for an overview: https://students.unsw.edu.au/paraphrasing-summarising-and-quoting
- http://vimeo.com/62077440 (a nice short video introduction to paraphrasing with some good examples at the end)
- http://www.uefap.com/paraphrasing.html (click on ‘Reporting’. Read the information and do some of the exercises)
- http://library.sites.adelaide.edu.au/teachdocs.php?id=165 (good paraphrasing tutorial - follow the steps to see good and bad examples of paraphrases and do the activity and quiz at the end)
- http://emedia.mhhe.com.au/englishlearning/content/paraphrasing-tutorial (another paraphrasing tutorial with some exercises)
- Synonyms
  - Common synonyms for essay writing
- Hanging (5 links from Moodle)
- Prepositions
Students’ e-portfolio homepages

Welcome to Audrey’s home page.
Hello. I am Audrey. My major is Finance. Welcome to my page : )

Pages in this project
Home
Argument essay 2
Argument essay 3
Argument Essay1
Discussion essay1
Problem solution essay 2
discussion essay 500

As technology continues to develop, energy issues have been paid more attentions. Australia now has developed the usage of coal to produce energy rather than explore the alternative fuels. Alternative fuels refer to the energies which have low pollution and high efficiency such as solar energy, wind energy and wave energy. This essay will discuss the benefits and drawbacks of the diversification of energy sources in Australia. It will consider the influences for both coal and renewable energy.

There are numerous benefits associated with diversification of energy sources. First and foremost, alternative diversification of energy sources can not produce energy, but also have less pollution. According to Nichols (2009), there are a large number of approaches that can be explored and replace coal such as bountiful wind, sun, hydro, wave, geothermal and biomass reserves, as well as creating a diverse clean energy economy. Secondly, greenhouse gas emissions have become one of the most serious issues in the world, and the source of issues are related with coal. Nichols (2009) claims that coal must be phased out in Australia, because it is single biggest polluter and produce a third of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions, however, one of solutions are the development of natural gas. Natural gas is a clean energy, and it is simple to get. According to Rory (2008), natural gas has lower greenhouse gas and other emissions; it is as an energy source has considerable environmental benefits over both coal and oil. This aspect is supposed to be promoted and in the future it could become main energy resource in Australia. While there are a number of new resources like natural gas which should be explored nowadays, if in the future these new energy sources replace the traditional approach, they not only solve problems about the pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, but also promote to the development of economy in Australia.

However, diversification of energy sources in Australia also has its challenges. First of all, developing alternative energy sources will decrease the economy in Australia. Sinclair (2009) claims that black coal nowadays as the largest source of primary energy in Australia. Because of present population and the needs of consumption of present population, coal has large reserves which are easily accessible to support the consumption of present population. Experts predict that beyond the 21st century coal reserves in Australasia are added and promote the economic development in 21st. Nevertheless, if coal is replaced by new energy, it could 2009) secondly, alternative diversification energy sources nowadays as a stop which should explored on them. According to the Australia Coal Association (2011), the industry of Australia's coal is worth...

In conclusion, in terms of decreasing the pollution and greenhouse emission, and the challenges for benefits and drawbacks for alternative energy sources. In the future, Australia government should continue to develop new sources, and promote development of economy in Australia.
Discussion between peer-reviewer, original author and teacher

In conclusion, there are both benefits and drawbacks for alternative energy sources in terms of decreasing pollution and greenhouse emissions, and the challenges which are crippling the Australian economy. It can be concluded that benefits outweigh these risks. In the future, the Australian government should decrease risk which are caused by coal and continue to develop new sources, and promote development of economy in Australia.

Simon993 May 7, 2015
continuously develop...

fongyubo May 7, 2015
i think it is right.

jamesteacher May 7, 2015
it should be 'continue to develop'
## Data collected

Students’ writing and feedback on Wikispaces

### Problem solution essay 2

ShengDali  Apr 30, 2015

- **Highlight Changes (deleted, inserted)**
- **View WikiText**
- **Review Changes**
- **Revert to This Version**

Study related stress is generally acknowledged as a major problem for students. However, providing effective solutions to solve this problem seems to be a significant challenge. This essay will explain the common causes of study related stress and suggest some viable alleviation strategies. It will be demonstrated by focusing on restructuring the exam system and closer cooperation between tertiary institutions, and companies.

There are a number of factors which are recognized to contribute to study related stress. First and foremost, exams might be the most common cause of stress for students. This means that because all students want to pass their exams while, sometimes, it may be very difficult due to their limited abilities. These students who are worried about the results of exams will feel stressed, leading to many physical problems, such as headaches and insomnia. In addition to exams, uncertain future employment might also be a factor that leads to stress. Once students think that there is no guarantee for their future career, they might lose interest in their subjects or even abandon studies altogether.

Study related stress cannot be eliminated completely but it can be alleviated. A solution to this problem may be to restructure the exam system. For instance, changing the weighting of exams might be helpful for reducing stress for students. Although it is true to say that it is complex for government to change an exam system, it seems to be worthwhile. If compared with the benefits created by the less stress studying environment. Furthermore, promoting the cooperation between colleges and companies or government is also an effective way to alleviate stress for students. Despite the fact that additional costs may be invested by the companies and governments, it could be argued that it offers a potential labor source for themselves. If students know that they could be employed once they graduated from universities, there might be no so much pressure.

In conclusion, study related stress should be recognized as a significant problem requiring attention from both students and society. There are various causes of this problem, such as exams and uncertain future employment. However, it could be alleviated by making improvements related solutions. And in this way, by changing exam system and promoting the cooperation between colleges and companies, its damaging effects can be minimized.

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### Revision history
Data collected

Three focus group discussions

Teacher observations and reflective journals

WEEK 2, Journal  Friday, 27 March 2015, 8:41 PM

In UEEC20, I learned a lot about grammar and I wrote some summaries which were corrected by my classmates. Moreover, I found some academic words about my future course. Peer feedback is the most helpful method for my English writing. It can not only help others to correct their writing but also improve my English grammar.
Data collected

Engagement data from Wikispaces

Using Wikispaces has helped me improve my writing

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Two surveys

Official assessment results
Findings: feedback & rewriting

“In Wikispaces I can review my essay and find the mistakes that I have made and maybe next time I will not make the same mistakes.”

“I can add more information [on Wikispaces], maybe I can make a new idea ....It has give me good chance to rewrite for three times, four times.”
Findings: motivation

- value for future studies

“Wikispaces improved my typing and my father when he heard me write in computer he said, ‘oh lord, this is not my daughter!’”
Findings: motivation

- autonomous learning

“I wanted to improve my grammar so I read my comments again, and other students’ comments.”
Conclusion and reflections

- 94% of students felt that the project helped improve their writing
- Action Research experience
- Other contexts
The adventure continues…

- Video feedback
References:

Thank you!

- Find a guide on how to use Wikispaces at www.eltideas.com

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