

B Session Abstract

Plenary Session: The yummy yummy case: Learning to write – Observing readers and writers

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with

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The Yummy Yummy Case is a short lesson series of four lessons, where students (Grade 7) learn to write a letter of complaint, without any instruction but with significant student progression. The students function in a community of learners, creating and participating in relevant learning experiences in writing, reading and talking. The teacher scaffolded a series of experiences that helped students learn inductively. In the presentation, we will follow the teacher's path of reasoning when creating the lesson series.

In this series of lessons students write, act as readers, observe readers, abstract qualities of effective texts, and revise their first versions. We will present some film clips showing the students at work, their processes, and their texts.

Finally we will present the highlights of other studies on the effects of observation as a learning activity in writing. These learning activities vary from observing readers to experiencing the effect of the text the learner wrote, to observing learners doing writing tasks instead of doing these tasks themselves: in some cases students were learning to write without writing. Genres involved are argumentative letters, written instructions, argumentative essays, synthesis texts, and letters of application. Participants involved are students from ages varying from 12-19, in the Netherlands these students were in grade 7 through freshmen in business school.