

Handout 1

A. Readiness for Teaching Writing: KWL Chart

Fill in columns 1 and 2. Discuss your answers with the person on your right. Did you find commonalities? Share with the group as time permits. Be prepared to return to column 3 at the end of the workshop.

1. What do I know about teaching writing?	2. What do I want to know about teaching writing?	3. What did I learn about teaching writing?

B. Practice A – Brainstorming

As a whole group, read the topic assignment. Underline key words. Let the key words guide you to list as many ideas as come to mind for writing a descriptive paragraph on the topic.

Topic 1: Holidays are celebrated in many different ways. Choose a holiday from your country that is important to you. Explain when it is celebrated, what people do, what they eat, and what they might make for this holiday.

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C. Practice B—Organizing Ideas

As a whole group, go to your brainstorming list.

1. Using your topic, construct a draft topic sentence.

2. Check and see if any of the ideas from your brainstorming list should be deleted

3. Do you have any new ideas to add based on the topic sentence?

4. Order your ideas by putting numbers in front of them.

D. Practice C—Graphic Organizers

As a whole group, fill in the boxes in the graphic organizer below.


Topic Sentence



Supporting Idea 1

Supporting Idea 2

Supporting Idea 3



Concluding Sentence



E. Practice D - First Draft

Take your graphic organiser and use it to write a first draft of a paragraph. Write one sentence for each idea. If you have problems with the topic sentence, leave space and write it last. Focus on ideas first. Don't worry too much about spelling and grammar. Be sure to double space so that revision and editing will be possible.



F. Practice 1 - Revising

What similarities and differences did you find in the teacher comments?

The New Year in my country it's in January, first.

The people do in this day some people go to visit their family,

They ate tamales in the noon with their family.

Some people like to go to the beach with their family or with friends.

I don't have mor idea meabe nex time I do.

Teacher Comments:

This sounds like a great day. I would like to know more about this holiday. Can you say what country you are talking about? What else do the people eat with their families? What do the people do at the beach?

My favorite holiday is when we celebrate the Mother's Day.

Because everybody are buying something presents for their mother's

In this day all the children go to school with ours mother's.

Because they're prepare foods and small presents for their mom.

But too the children too sing and recite for all the mothers.

This holiday is the only one day to recognize so much all the mothers.

Teacher Comments:

This must be a great holiday for mothers and children. I would like to know more about how you celebrate this holiday in your country. Can you talk more about the presents people buy? Can you say more about the mothers going to school with the children? What happens at school? What foods do you eat? What activities do you have? What kinds of songs or poems do students recite and sing to their mothers?

G. Practice 2 – Revising

In small groups, examine the following writing sample. Is there any confusion? Why? Decide where you find the strong and weak areas in the piece and work together to write level-appropriate positive comments and questions to the writer that will help him revise to create a clearer paragraph. Be sure to begin with positive comments that respond to the writing and the writer.

Christmas Holiday is very important in Bolivia.

Um family likes it in specially my daughters and sons because the food

is duck diner. The baked duck is traditional in my family.

Independence Holiday in my country is August 6

The military march on the most and big Avenue.

Paragraph Strong Points Positive Comments	Paragraph Strong Points Positive Comments
Paragraph Weak Points Questions to Lead to Improvement	Paragraph Weak Points Questions to Lead to Improvement