

**Further Reading****Topic** Guided writing

Guided writing is an instructional approach designed to help learners develop their writing skills by providing structured support throughout the writing process. Rather than expecting students to produce fully independent work right away, guided writing breaks the task down into manageable steps. Here's a closer look at what it involves:

[Click here to see Key Elements of Guided Writing:](#)

1. Teachers might provide writing frames, sentence starters, or outlines to help structure students' ideas. Specific prompts guide learners on what to write about, ensuring they cover necessary content or skills.
2. Ongoing, targeted feedback is provided during and after the writing process. Teachers may demonstrate how to construct a piece of writing by writing together with the class or showing examples.
3. Initially, the teacher takes a more active role in directing the writing process. Over time, the support is gradually reduced, encouraging students to become more independent writers.
4. Guided writing activities often target particular aspects of writing such as organisation, coherence, grammar, or vocabulary. It helps learners focus on one skill at a time, making the writing process less overwhelming.

[Click here to read about Benefits of Guided Writing:](#)

- **Builds Confidence:** Students gain confidence as they see their ideas develop into structured writing with support.
- **Improves Writing Skills:** The process reinforces writing conventions and techniques through repeated, scaffolded practice.
- **Encourages Critical Thinking:** With prompts and guided questions, learners engage in planning and revising their work.
- **Facilitates Differentiation:** Teachers can tailor the level of guidance based on individual student needs.

[Examples of Guided Writing Activities:](#)

- **Fill-in-the-Blanks:** Students complete sentences or paragraphs where key vocabulary or structural elements are missing.
- **Sentence Starters:** Providing the beginning of a sentence to help learners build complete thoughts.
- **Collaborative Writing:** The class, small groups or individuals work on a piece of writing, with the teacher facilitating the process.
- **Peer Review:** After a guided writing session, students exchange drafts and provide feedback based on specific criteria.

Guided writing is especially useful in early stages of writing development but can also benefit more advanced learners when introducing complex writing tasks. It's a balanced way to support learners while gradually building their autonomy in writing.