Appendices

Enhancing capacity to analyse students' writing

Libby Limbrick

Appendix A: Partnership agreement between the project co-ordinator/researchers and teachers

Partnership Agreement between the Project Co-ordinator/Researchers and Teachers For a project:

A research partnership to enhance capacity to analyse students in writing in order to raise student achievement in writing through using evidence more effectively

This agreement covers the partnership between the Project Coordinator/Researchers and the school for xxxxxxxxxxxxx during the period of 2006/2007. We intend to undertake this project in a collaborative manner, with due recognition of each other's skills and values.

Because the project involves observation of students and teaching, it is important that the project is carried out in an atmosphere of trust and respect. This agreement therefore specifies the expectations for each of the project participants.

As project partners, we will co-operate to achieve the project aims and objectives:

The proposed project has 3 main aims:

- 1. to raise student achievement in writing and reduce reported disparity in writing achievement for Maori and Pasifika students through strengthening teachers' understanding and use of assessment data in writing to modify instructional programmes;
- 2. to enhance teachers' capacity to analyse students' writing, using the English Exemplars (2003), and to strengthen teacher practice in using evidence to inform teaching;
- 3. to enhance teachers' knowledge about the principles and practices of effective pedagogy for writing through engaging in robust professional discussion in quality learning circles.

The following objectives stem from these aims:

1. to investigate and strengthen teachers' understanding of the writing process in schools that have high proportions of Maori and Pasifika students;

- 2. to enable teachers to use writing achievement data to inform the teaching of writing processes
- 3. to investigate the role of professional discussion about students' writing to enhance teachers' knowledge about writing processes and writing pedagogy
- 4. to investigate teachers' perception of their own confidence and competence in teaching writing as a result of participation in quality learning circles focused on writing.

Specifically, the Project Coordinator/Researchers will:

- submit an ethics proposal to The University of Auckland and act in accordance with its requirements
- maintain strong lines of communication about the project's progress, plans and issues arising
- take responsibility for organising the project's tasks, reports and timetabling
- liaise with the TLRI funders where necessary
- ensure that participants are paid as per the project budget
- collect and analyse observation data
- interview project participants throughout the duration of the project
- search and secure necessary resource material/research findings relevant to the project
- report project findings accurately and sensitively, while respecting anonymity and confidentiality
- help disseminate project findings as agreed by the project team

The participating teachers will:

- attend planning meetings and workshops as appropriate and contribute to the project's activities
- organise and participate in observations
- carry out these tasks in a sensitive and supportive manner
- undertake the collection of observation data as planned for the project
- be interviewed by the researchers throughout the project
- participate in the review of project reports
- have the on-going right to withdraw from the project
- help disseminate project findings as agreed by the project team

Signed by the Project Co-ordinator on behalf of the Researchers

Name: Libby Limbrick Signature: Date:

Signed by the Principal on behalf of the xxx School

Name: Signature: Date:

Appendix B: Planning documents

1.	1. Class Writing Profile					
		Children	Teaching			
Strengths (based Writing Exemplars)	on					
Needs (based Writing Exemplars)	on					

Template for recording TLRI project

2. Focus Area/s	Focus Area/s						
Select 3 possible focus areas for this project	Why have you selected them?						
a)							
b)							
c)							
Final choice (in discussion with Research team)							

	Research Process: Timeline/Action Plan/ Reflections							
When	What	Why	How	*Issues *Comments	that 5	have	arisen	

Example of planning communication

TLRI MEETING OF MARINEKE AND LIBBY WITH SCHOOL 'X' TEACHER RESARCHERS 9.00 – 12.00 JUNE 14TH

To all teacher researchers

We are looking forward to meeting with you again. Before we do please remember to send us your final focus.. that is the goals for your writing programme.

Remember that these need to be based on evidence of students (or teacher) need from the students' writing samples you have looked at.

If this could be emailed to Marineke (<u>m.goodwin@auckland.ac.nz</u>) and Libby (<u>l.limbrick@auckland.ac.nz</u>) by Tuesday June 27th. It would be helpful if you could let us know also what your current class or syndicate theme/topics for this part of the term are.

This will allow us some time to think and about, and gather, any resource material that may help you.

Please come to the meeting with :-

- 1. Your focus/goal and rationale clearly stated. Remember that this must be from you analysis of your students' writing using the Exemplars. We still have an opportunity to refine this;
- 2. The action plan drafted with possible timeframe and what you plan to do, ... remember to have a reason for doing it based on the evidence you have identified.
- 3. Think carefully about the steps you need to put into place to achieve each stage of your timeframe. You may wish to put this is in draft form if you are still not sure about how you are going to achieve your goals.
- 4. If you have made a start, come prepared to share with us your experience of what has happened so far. For example if you have any samples of your modelling, and /or any resources you have used. Think about what this tells you about your teaching
- 5. Please also bring some samples of writing from the children you are working with, that you would like to discuss with us.

We would like to use this time to think about what we are all learning from these opportunities in relation to the project goals (see attached). This could include any insights you are having about looking closely at your students' writing in terms of your teaching. It could also include any challenges or problems you are having...or any issues at all you want to bring up.

See you soon

Libby and Marineke

Appendix C: Documents used during the project

Peer observations of writing

Name:

Year groups;

School:

Date:

Rationale	
Why this is my focus and what I	Peer discussion notes
want to achieve in this lesson	
	Why this is my focus and what I

I want you to look for evidence of	Peer observed evidence	Peer discussion notes after observation
I want you to look for evidence of	Peer observed evidence	Peer discussion notes after observation

Interschool meeting, November 2006

QUESTIONS FOR TLRI FOCUS GROUPS MEETING

Introductory blurb: thank you for being part of the research team and for coming this afternoon to share you experiences: your learning and the challenges for you and what if any impact there has been on the students' writing.

So that your comments will be anonymous can you number yourselves clockwise. You will then be recorded as Teacher 1,2 etc.in each group.

The questions noted below are only to keep us on track and to guide discussion around your experiences and responses to being in the project. They will not necessarily all be covered individually as some of these issues may arise incidentally. Let's start with some general feelings. Can each person identify some PMIs (Positives, Minuses and Interesting points). Let's start with the positives first. Can we hear from each of you in turn?

- 1. What have been some 'positives' for you of taking part in the TLRI project focus on writing?
- 2. What have been some 'negatives' of challenges for you of taking part in the TLRI project focus on writing? What could be improved in the process?
- 3. What have been some interesting, or surprising, outcomes for you as a result of taking part in the TLRI project focus on writing?
- 4. At the heart of this project has been the establishment of a goal or goals based on knowing about your students' achievement and reflection on your own practice. In what way did a focus on a specific aspect of your practice influence your teaching?
- 5. What changes have you made to your practice (if any)? Can you describe one aspect of your practice that you have changed? (for example modelling, conferencing, publishing, organisation,). Try to be explicit and focus on big picture stuff. Was this related to your goal or specific focus?
- 6. What effect has this had on your students' writing? (or what changes have you seen. in your children's writing and their attitude to writing). Why do you think it has had that effect?
- 7. How and for what purpose do you use English Exemplars in your classroom? (for example establishing learning intentions/success criteria, modelling, conferencing, publishing or other)
- 8. What do you know about writing and the teaching of writing that you didn't know before this year?

- 9. What do you think makes a good teacher of writing? Why these factors important?
- 10. Are there any other comments (or suggestions) you would like to make about the TLRI project?

TLRI Interschool meeting, August 2007

WRITING MENTORS/LITERACY LEADERS/ 2007 TEACHERS) *Please comment from your perspective* – (separate forms for each group)

	What are the benefits?	What are the challenges?	What needs to happen to ensure sustainability of writing instruction professional development
For students?			
For teachers?			
For the schools			

TLRI final forum proforma, November 2007

- 1. What do you as a school, and as individual teachers know now, that you didn't know before about enhancing the teaching of writing?
- 2. If you were to be asked to advise another school on how to go about enhancing the writing achievement of their students, based on what you have learnt from being involved in the project about the teaching of writing and about professional development within a school, what would be some of the key messages? (for example it may include knowing about your students writing from using the English Writing Exemplars, developing goals for focused teaching, having professional discussions about approaches and resources, peer observations etc etc.. these are just prompts for your thinking, not putting ideas into your head)

3. What have you planned or will you put in place in 2008 to maintain the focus on students' writing achievement throughout the school?

Appendix D: asTTle Writing scores 2006–2007: Console reports

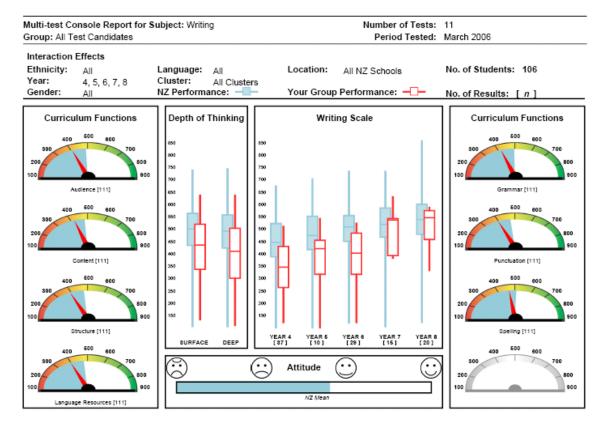


Figure 1: March 2006

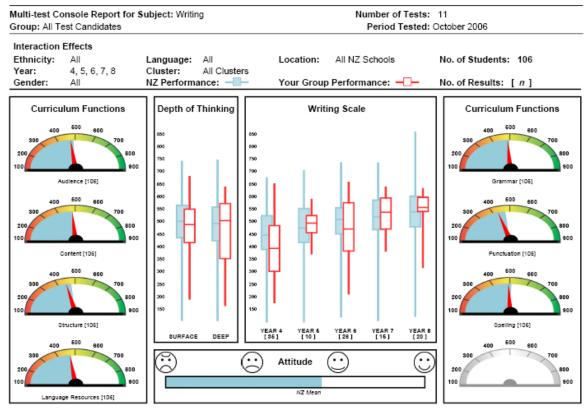


Figure 2: October 2006

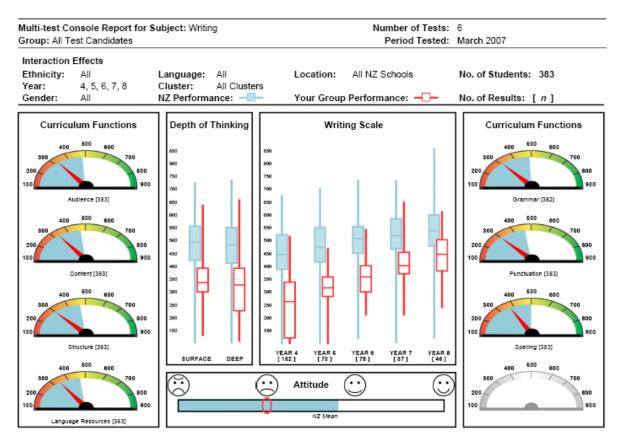


Figure 3: March 3007

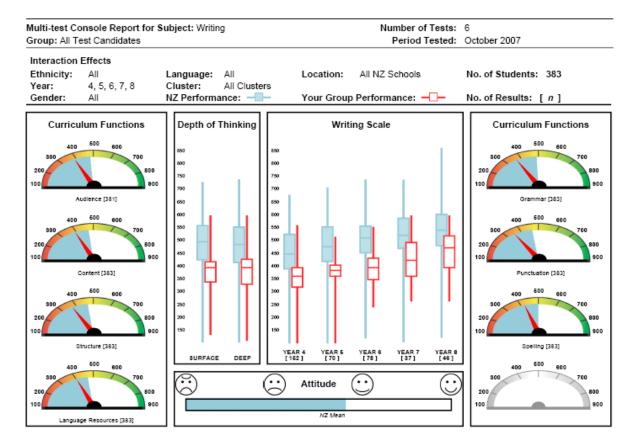


Figure 4: October 2007

2006 Raw scores for median 75th and 25th percentiles and ranges (NZ norms for <u>means</u>, available only for the end of the year for asTTle V4, in brackets)

	Median	75 th	25 th	Upper range	Lower range
		percentile	percentile	score	score
		Yea	ar 4		1
March	350	435	260	510	110
October	400 (455)	490 (525)	305 (390)	650 (675)	170 (175)
Difference	50	55	45	60	60
		Yea	ar 5		
March	425	460	310	545	<100
October	495 (480)	520 (550)	455 (405)	675 (700)	355 (<100)
Difference	70	60	145	130	>255
		(5		
March	400	455	310	555	110
October	455(505)	560(550)	360 (445)	650 (740)	200 (130)
Difference	55	105	50	95	90
		Yea	ar 7		
March	525	530	390	630	380
October	520 (520)	595(590)	465 (460)	635 (740)	375 (100)
Difference	- 5	60	75	5	-5
		Yea	ar 8		
March	540	560	450	580	315
October	555 (535)	595 (590)	540 (470)	630 (880)	310 (110)
Difference	15	35	90	50	5
	(54)				

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Table: 2007 Raw score for median 75th and 25th percentiles and ranges

	Median	75 th	25 th	Upper range	Lower range
		percentile	percentile	score	score
		Yea	ar 4	I	
March	260	345	130	520	<100
October	360 (450)	395(525)	310(390)	505 (680)	<100(<100)
Difference	100	50	180	15	
		Ye	ar 5		
March	320	355	270	470	<100
October	385 (480)	405 (550)	355 (405)	510 (700)	<100(<100)
Difference	65	50	85	40	
		Ye	ar 6		
March	355	400	300	445	210
October	390 (505)	420 (550)	345 (445)	550(740)	240 (130)
	45	20	45	105	30
	(14)				
			ar 7		
March	400	450	355	650	210
October	420 (520)	490 (590)	360(460)	600 (730)	255 (110)
	20	40	5	50	45
Year 8					
March	450	495	370	600	220
October	460 (535)	510 (590)	390 (470)	595 (850)	255 (110)
Difference	10	15	20	-5	35

Tables 2 and 3 suggest that for Years 4,5 and 6 in both 2006 and 2007 not only were mean gain scores greater than expected, but that the scores for the students in the 25th percentile increased substantially and students in lower range of scores improved more than expected according to the New Zealand norms.

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Appendix E: asTTle Writing

2006 Asttle WRITING SCORES FOR MARCH AND OCTOBER AND GAINS

Mean AsTTle Writing (means and curricula levels)

School B Year 4

	Score	Level	Surface	Deeper
March	382	2P	2P	2P
October	425	2P	2A	2P
Difference(sublevels)	37	0	1	0

School B Year 5/6

	Score	Level	Surface	Deeper
March	459	2A	2A	2A
October	589	3A	3A	3A
Difference(Sublevels)	130	3	3	3

School C Year 4

	Score	Level	Surface	Deeper
March	247	<2B	2B	<2B
October	342	2B	2P	2B
Difference(sublevels)	95	1	1	1

School C Year 5/6

	Score	Level	Surface	Deeper
March	428	2P	2P	2P
October	505	3B	3B	3B
Difference(Sublevels)	77	2	2	2

2007AsTTIe WRITING SCORES FOR MARCH AND OCTOBER AND GAINS

Mean AsTTle Writing (means and curricula levels)

School A Year 4

	Score	Level	Surface	Deeper
March	286	2B	2B	2B
October	435	2P	2P	2A
Difference(Sublevels)	149	1	1	2

School A Year 5

	Score	Level	Surface	Deeper
March	310	2B	2B	2B
October	417	2P	2P	2P
Difference(Sublevels)	107	1	1	1

School A Year 6

	Score	Level	Surface	Deeper
March	380	2P	2B	2P
October	452	2A	2A	2A
Difference (Sublevels)	72	1	1	1

School A Year 7

	Score	Level	Surface	Deeper
March	435	2P	2P	2A
October	502	3B	3B	3B
Difference(Sublevels)	67	2	2	1

School A Year 8

	Score	Level	Surface	Deeper
March	414	2P	2P	2P
October	420	2P	2P	2P
Difference(Sublevels)	6	0	0	0

School B Year 4

	Score	Level	Surface	Deeper
March	333	2B	2B	2B
October	361	2B	2B	2B
Difference(sublevels)	29	0	0	0

School B Year 5

School D Tear e						
	Score	Level	Surface	Deeper		
March	311	2B	2B	2B		
October	363	2B	2P	2B		
Difference(Sublevels)	52	0	1	0		

School B Year 6

	Score	Level	Surface	Deeper
March	327	2B	2B	2B
October	364	2B	2P	2B
Difference(Sublevels)	37	0	1	0

School C Year 6

	Score	Level	Surface	Deeper
March	290	2B	2B	2B
October	354	2B	2B	2B
Difference(Sublevels)	64	0	0	0

School C Year 5

	Score	Level	Surface	Deeper
March	299	2B	2B	2B
October	366	2B	2B	2B
Difference(Sublevels)	67	0	0	0

School C Year 4

	Score	Level	Surface	Deeper
March	301	2B	2B	2B
October	401	2P	2P	2P
Difference(Sublevels	100	1	1	1

AsTTIe WRITING SCORES FOR MARCH AND OCTOBER AND GAINS MEDIAN, 75th PERCENTILE, 25th PERCENTILE AND RANGE

School A Table: 2007 Raw score for median , 75th and 25th percentile, and ranges

	Median	75 th percentile	25 th percentile	Upper range score	Lower range score
		Y	'ear 4		
March	275	350	245	355	160
October	484	485	385	500	330
Difference	209	135	140	145	70
		Y	'ear 5		<u> </u>
March	340	355	280	450	120
October	430	475	395	510	100
Difference	90	120	115	60	20
		Ŷ	'ear 6		
March	360	440	350	505	235
October	455	465	420	540	365
Difference	95	25	70	35	130
		Y	'ear 7		
March	371	520	355	550	350
October	525	555	420	600	410
Difference	154	35	65	40	60
		Y	/ear 8		
March	380	500	275	445	240
October	430	440	375	465	355
Difference	50	60	100	20	115

	Median	75 th percentile	25 th percentile	Upper range score	Lower range score	
Year 4						
March	310	365	280	515	205	
October	355	395	335	555	240	
Difference	45	30	55	40	35	
	Year 5					
March	310	355	250	445	<100	
October	390	395	340	445	245	
Difference	80	40	90	0	>145	
Year 6						
March	305	350	280	490	240	
October	330	390	300	540	260	
Difference	25	40	20	50	20	

School B Table: 2007 Raw score for median , 75th and 25th percentile, and ranges

School C Table: 2007 Raw score for median, 75th and 25th percentile, and ranges

	Median	75 th percentile	25 th percentile	Upper range score	Lower range score	
	Year 4					
March	280	335	210	415	165	
October	405	410	360	455	300	
Difference	25	75	70	40	135	
		Y	/ear 5	1		
March	300	355	285	460	<100	
October	365	395	310	450	240	
Difference	65	45	25	10	>140	
Year 6						
March	295	315	255	355	205	
October	355	400	305	450	245	
Difference	60	85	50	95	40	

English Writing Exemplars 2006

Writing levels for Writing Exemplars are not exact as they are estimated as a 'Best Fit' mean of the individual students scores

School A Year 1/2

	Surface (x)	Deeper	Best fit
March	1ii	1 i	1i
October	1ii	1ii	1ii
Change in sublevel	0	1	1

School B Year 2

	Surface (x)	Deeper	Best fit
March	1iii	1 iii	1iii
October	2 i	2i	2i
Change in sublevel	1	1	1

School C Year 2

	Surface (x)	Deeper	Best fit
March	1i	1 i	1i
October	1ii	1ii	1ii
Change in sublevel	1	1	1

2007

Writing levels for Writing Exemplars are not exact as they are estimated as a 'Best Fit' mean of the individual students scores. No Year 2 class participated in the project from School A in 2007.

School B Year 2

	Surface (x)	Deeper	Best fit
March	1ii	1 ii	1ii
October	1iii	1iii	1iii

NB. In March no student scored Level 2 against any indicator except 2(N=17) students with spelling. In October 6 students 'Best Fit' was level 2 with 11 students scoring Level 2 in relation to one of more indicators.

School C Year 2

	Surface (x)	Deeper	Best fit	
March	1i	1 ii	1i	
October	1ii	1ii	1ii	

6 of the 11 students shifted 1 sublevel.

Manurewa East Room 15

	Surface (x)	Deeper	Best fit	
March	1i	1 i	1i	
October	1ii	1ii	1ii	

7 of 9 shifted 1 sublevel