

## Helping Student Writers Succeed in History Quiz Sections

*Here are four strategies you could try to help your students succeed in the writing they will do in your history sections.*

- Use sample papers or sample essay exam answers to illustrate your expectations about paper structure and use of evidence and citation
  - Obtain samples of papers or essay exam answers as well as the assignments or exam questions from colleagues or save samples of student writing from your classes.
  - Put the instructions and samples on an overhead or provide students with copies
  - Take time in class to talk through the papers or exam answers, emphasizing what you feel meets your expectations for writing and what could be more effective. Give students time to ask questions.
  
- As a class activity, ask students generate key steps in writing papers or essay exam answers. Reinforce and supplement their ideas.
  - For example, students could work in groups to generate a list and then put the list on the board
  - You and the class could review and compare the lists and summarize a single list for your work that quarter
  
- Using a typical paper assignment or exam question, compose a paper or essay exam answer together
  - Using the list you generated in the activity above, ask the class to work in small groups or as a whole class to compose a paper or essay exam answer.
  - As the class is composing the paper or essay exam answer and again when you've finished, remind the students of the key steps they are carrying out and why they are important
  
- Using a critique form that highlights the writing points you want to emphasize, work as a class or in small groups to critique a draft; as a class or in small groups, revise sections of the draft
  - If you're unfamiliar with critique forms, ask a colleague to share one with you
  - Develop a critique form that reflects the specific assignment and your expectations of the writers
  - Discuss the critique form with students before using it to analyze the draft

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