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ARTICLES

**“Don’t We Write Today?” Children’s Writing and Their Attitudes
About Writing in the Looking Glass Neighborhood..... 7**

Antonella Cortese

Children typically come to the classroom with a vast amount of knowledge about how to communicate thoughts and ideas. Classroom activities encourage them to use oral communication skills to explain and express feelings and opinions about their everyday lives, including events unique to their cultural and linguistic backgrounds. And although children come to school knowing what writing is used for, what it looks like, and how it is used in different contexts, it is often taught in a way that does not acknowledge what children bring with them into the classroom. This study looks at the results of an attitude survey, a number of children’s writing samples collected over a two-year period, and transcripts of interviews with children exploring their feelings about writing and their writing abilities. Findings illustrate that children do know what it means to be a good writer and why it is important. Additionally, children have opinions about the writing they do both in school and after school. We hope that our results will add to the continuing discussion of the ways educators introduce writing to their students, as well as how they perceive their students as writers.

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Mae Lombos Wlazlinski

This paper describes a professional development model aimed at improving the language skills of English Language Learners (ELLs) while they acquire grade level appropriate mathematics skills specified by the state standards. A university professor, a Mathematics/ESL Lab teacher, and a middle grades Mathematics teacher worked as a team to specify teaching and learning outcomes and redesign their lesson plans to include language-building activities using mathematics core content. While students’ test scores and journal entries provide insight into their learning of both language and mathematics, teachers’ journal entries provide insight into the transformation of their practice and their new perception of their roles as both language and mathematics teachers.

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Ken Kelch and Eliana Santana-Williamson

In teaching English as a Second Language (ESL), different treatment may be given to native-speaking and nonnative-speaking instructors by administrators and students. This article explores the attitudes of ESL students toward native English teachers and nonnative English teachers. After listening to audiotaped passages read by three native English speakers and three nonnative English speakers, participants completed an attitude survey on each variety. The results indicate that student attitudes toward teachers with different varieties of English is not correlated with whether a speaker's accent is native or nonnative, but instead is correlated with the perception of whether the speaker is native or not. The results also suggest that student familiarity with an accent may be a primary factor in its perception as native or nonnative. Implications for administrators, nonnative-speaking English language educators, and students are discussed.

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Iris Dolores Thot-Johnson and Swathi Vanniarajan

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Mark Roberge

Over the past several decades, the number of generation 1.5 immigrants attending California's elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools has increased dramatically. However, many teachers, curriculum developers, administrators, and educational policymakers are still unaware of the special experiences, characteristics, and needs that these students may bring to the classroom. This article provides an overview and synthesis of scholarship relevant to generation 1.5 immigrants, in order to help readers develop more appropriate pedagogies, policies, and programs to meet these students' needs. The following areas are addressed: (a) definitions of the generation 1.5 population; (b) the social, political, and economic context of post-1965 immigration; (c) adaptation, acculturation, and identity formation; (d) experiences in U.S. schools; (e) language acquisition and language practices; and (f) acquisition of academic literacy.

Working With Generation 1.5 Students and Their Teachers:
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Sugie Goen, Patricia Porter, Deborah Swanson, and Deborah VanDommelen

This article describes a research project conducted at San Francisco State University on “Generation 1.5” learners and their teachers. In addition to providing a detailed description of who these learners are, this article warns of the pervasive likelihood of these students falling somewhere between the traditional institutional tracks of “native speaker” Composition and ESL, neither of which appropriately meets their educational needs. The article describes efforts at SFSU to mitigate this dangerous trend by bringing together faculty from Composition and ESL to explore some of the tendencies, preconceptions, and assumptions that inform the ways ESL and Composition program faculty respond to the writing of Generation 1.5 students. The article concludes by identifying a number of successful instructional principles and practices for working with this population of students, and considers the effects on teacher training and institutional policy should such practices be implemented.

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Jan Frodesen

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Frank Noji

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