

Writing frames - Benefits

Writing frames can help by

- Providing pupils with experience of a range of generic structures
- Offering a structure in which the given connectives maintain the cohesive ties of the text
- Offering a varied vocabulary of connectives and sentence beginnings
- Encouraging pupils to give a personal interpretation of the information they have gathered

Writing frames - Benefits

Writing frames can help by

- Getting pupils to select and think about what they have learnt through encouraging them to re-order information and demonstrate understanding rather than simply copying text
- Enabling all pupils to experience some success at writing
- Preventing pupils from the stress of being presented with a blank sheet of paper
- Providing pupils an overview of the writing task

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Lewis M., & Wray, D. (ed) *Writing frames*. Exeter: EXEL.

Writing frames - Limitations

Writing frames do have possible limitations

- Some teachers find the approach too utilitarian
- Not all children may need writing frames; important to consider abilities and learning styles of pupils and differentiate accordingly
- The predefined structure may constrain children from saying what they want to say about a topic
- In some classrooms children become dependent upon them and do not make the expected transition to internalising the connective elements and being able to write independently
- Danger of treating writing frames as a worksheet without going through the process of demonstration and modelling