

Compare and Contrast ELA and CONTENT WRITING

Writing in the Classroom	English Teachers	Other Content Area Teachers	How Similar or Different
Teaching	<p>Responsible for teaching writing skills. These skills include content, organization, style, and all conventions of the English language.</p> <p>Responsible for teaching the structure, rules, and guidelines for writing.</p> <p>Responsible for guiding students in how to communicate clearly and concisely in writing.</p>	<p>Responsible for teaching their content and the specific writing skills necessary in the specific area.</p> <p>Writing in Art looks different from writing in Health/Wellness; writing in Welding looks different from writing in Cosmetology. Each subject area has specific writing requirements which support teaching and assessing within the specific discipline.</p>	<p>Both are responsible for teaching content, skills, and critical thinking.</p> <p>For English teachers, the skills of writing are their content.</p> <p>ELA teachers TEACH writing.</p> <p>Content area teachers USE writing.</p>
Form	<p>Students practice a variety of genres of writing (narrative, informative, text analysis, opinion, persuasive, argument, etc.).</p> <p>Products often include essays, research papers, poems, short stories, etc.</p>	<p>Students write to convey content. Product can take many forms; it doesn't have to be an essay and should be authentic to the subject.</p> <p>Non-essay examples: artist's statement, advertisement, infographic, editorial, lab report, resume, contract, slide deck, news article, math process explanation, etc.</p>	<p>Both are responsible for exposing students to various forms of writing, both academic and real-world.</p> <p>ELA teachers tend to focus more heavily on traditional essay forms than content area teachers, who tend to assign more varied forms that reflect the kinds of writing most often seen in the discipline.</p>
Assessing	<p>Using identified criteria, English teachers assess content, organization, style, AND conventions.</p>	<p>Content assessment criteria are clearly identified and prioritized. Organization and style may be assessed, depending on the form of the assignment. Teachers assess conventions only to the extent that they feel necessary for the specific assignment.</p>	<p>Both assess students for understanding of content and the application of content-area skills. Both should move students to the highest orders of critical thinking.</p> <p>In English, the content includes writing skills; in other areas it includes the specific content area skills.</p> <p>Assessment criteria are clearly identified in all subject areas.</p>

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