Teaching writing

Areej and Asma have presented a very informative presentation on Teaching writing. One of the challenging things that teachers of English in EFL classrooms face is how to teach writing effectively. Writing is one of the skills that require from the students not only to be equipped with the necessary skills but also to be motivated. For most students writing is a painful and difficult process. There are some writing approaches that we have explored in the presentation that might help us in teaching writing. The approaches are product approach and process approach. The product approach is a traditional approach, in which students are encouraged to mimic a text without any creativity. In my opinion, the product approach has many weaknesses on top of that, it does not teach students how to think and write independently. On the other hand, the process approach which is a reaction to the product approach gives students more active roles. Also, the teacher can collaborate with students to help them solve problems. Furthermore, in the process approach students are encouraged to generate and brainstorm ideas for their writing. Moreover, students write to communicate ideas, feelings and experiences. I implemented the writing process approach to my 3rd intermediate grade students, although it is time consuming and some students can get frustrated of reworking the same material multiple times. but, in the long term, the students will recognise the value of a process writing approach as their writing skills improve.

Moving on to my strategy that I use in all of my classes when teaching writing. I believe in incorporating communicative learning into my writing lessons. First, as a warm up activity I let my students freely discuss the writing topic with me and their classmates. This warm up activity is essential in all my writing classes for students to generate great and interesting ideas while learning the value of collaboration. Another useful technique i use is to break up the class into groups or pairs to work the writing topic together to “brainstorm”. In my opinion, brainstorming is one of the fundamental aspects where students can build on their writing. Teaching writing is more than just dealing with mistakes in grammar, vocabulary and structure. It is about helping our students to communicate real messages in appropriate manner