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# Presentational writing practice with texts

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May 2nd, 2019



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**What were your experiences with writing in a FL? How was it approached by your FL instructor? What role did it play?**

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# Writing in the FL classroom

## What it tends to be:

- A secondary skill in lower-level courses.
- A support skill
- Considered a vehicle for FL practice, or as a modality that enables the learning of spelling, grammar, or vocabulary.
- Students write to learn as opposed to the other way round.

## What it could be:

- A space for students to compose, revise, and consider how their stylistic choices impact meaning.
  - Learning to write: allows students to practice meaning-making in the foreign language.
  - An essential modality for engaging in interpretive and presentational communication in advanced-level courses.
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**What does one need to know in order to be a successful writer in the FL? What types of knowledge (available designs) should one be familiar with?**

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# Available designs for FL writing

- Content knowledge of concepts and ideas
  - Context knowledge of reader expectations and cultural preferences
  - Genre knowledge of the text type and its value in a given context
  - Process knowledge of the writing task (knowledge of how to carry out the process of constructing a text)
  - System knowledge of lexis, syntax, and formal writing conventions (grammar and vocab are necessary but not sufficient to write a good composition)
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**What is writing?**

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# Why the multiliteracies approach?

“An integrative, student-centered approach, solidly grounded in an available designs core ... that also attends to the interdependencies among textual products, cognitive processes, and sociocultural factors ... an approach that focuses on meaning as it is constructed *through* form in a cultural context.”  
(Kern, 2000, p. 185)

- Targets cultural, linguistic, and socio-cultural dimensions of literacy.
  - Addresses the 5 types of knowledge needed to create a FL text.
  - Contains all 3 approaches to FL writing.
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**Think of a text in the language you teach or find it online. Identify the linguistic, cognitive, and socio-cultural dimensions comprising this text. What available designs does it feature?**



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# Teaching written presentational communication through texts in the multiliteracies framework

## The 4 pedagogical acts:

- Provide means for instructors to systematically guide learners through the complex and multilateral process of meaning design.
  - Facilitate learners' access to the language, conventions, cultural content, and other resources / available designs comprising the texts.
  - Engage the learners in the processes of interpretation, collaboration, problem solving, and reflection.
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**Go back to the text you've  
looked up a few minutes ago.  
Use it to develop an activity  
targeting presentational writing.**

**hypothes.is**

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**Thank you!**

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