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*La Universidad Católica de Loja*

TITULACIÓN DE LICENCIADO EN CIENCIAS DE LA EDUCACIÓN  
MENCIÓN INGLES

**The use of blogs and discussion boards as supplementary materials to improve  
the writing skills in the EFL students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV at  
On- Site System at UTPL.**

Trabajo Fin de Carrera

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## CERTIFICATION

Dra. Carmen Delia Benítez Correa

CERTIFIES THAT:

This research work has been thoroughly revised by the graduation committee. Therefore, authorizes the presentation of this thesis, which complies with all the norms and internal requirements of the Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja.

Loja, September 2012

Signature: .....

I.D.: .....

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The thoughts, ideas, opinions, and the information obtained through this research  
are the sole responsibility of the author.

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## ABSTRACT

This study addresses the following topic: The use of blogs and discussion boards as supplementary material to improve the writing skills of the EFL students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV in the on-site system at UTPL.

The research aim was to determine if the use of blogs and discussion boards facilitated the improvement of writing skills. This research project began by reading all the relevant literature regarding the topic of this study. Qualitative and quantitative methods were used to collect the data. The data obtained was organized in tables, per variables and indicators. In addition, a survey was used in order to ask students their opinions about the use of blogs and discussion boards in the process of improving the writing skills.

This investigation took place in Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja. The project was directed towards English students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV with an average age between 19-20 years old. All of the students had Intermediate English Level. In this study it was seen that the students who used blogs and discussion boards have not improve their writing skills significantly.

## INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, English has become one of the most important languages in the world. Many students learn it superficially; however, few succeed in mastering core English skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). According to Raimes (1983), these skills are interrelated and often reciprocal; thus, they cannot be separated because they help solve problems, share insights, and build knowledge. All we know that, the most difficult skills for EFL learners is writing, due to the fact that they find themselves unable to express their ideas as accurately and convincingly in English as they would in their native language because they are not yet sufficiently familiar with the rules and standards of the English language; thus, many of them have problems when writing.

The topic of this research study was: The use of blogs and discussion boards as supplementary material to improve the writing skills in the EFL students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV at on- site system at UTPL.

The research aim was determine if the use of blogs and discussion boards facilitated the improvement of writing skills in students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV courses of English School at UTPL.

The topic of this research has been selected in order to extend the existing knowledge pertaining to use of electronic communication tools, particularly regarding the use of blogs and discussion boards as supplementary material to improve writing skills.

The methodology used for language teaching has improved considerably during the last years thanks to the development of technology; in this context, the Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja (UTPL) has an educational model oriented to the application of new technologies. The UTPL offers different electronic

communication tools, but the most important is EVA (Entorno Virtual de Aprendizaje), an online space where teachers and students generate and share knowledge. This research was conducted at Universidad Particular de Loja.

Some previous researches have been done concerning this topic: Nichols (1996), compared compositions written by 38 sixth graders using pencil and paper with those written using a word processor. The subjects of this study were two classes of sixth-grade students from a private school in Maryland. Half of the students wrote a story using the traditional pencil-and-paper approach, and the other half used a word processor. One month later, students wrote a second story and changed the writing approach they used earlier. The researcher used Correct Grammar program to analyze data. This analysis provided information about number of sentences, number of words, and reading ease. The test results indicated no significant difference between pencil-paper and word-processed compositions. However, students using computers wrote compositions with more words and sentences than students who used pencil and paper.

Daniels (2004), investigated the motivational effects of computer technology on writing instruction and performance of 5th graders. Instructor's responses towards the questionnaires showed that students' motivation and writing length is increased when computers are integrated into the writing process. The study results showed that computers, teacher participation, extracurricular instruction, and personalized assistance all together affected students' motivation.

According to Sousa (2009), the use of blogs to teach writing skills in Portuguese, based on the curriculum parameters for Brazilian basic education, which postulates that the teaching of Portuguese has to be based on texts. The study showed a view of

the potential of digital writing as a pedagogical tool for the development of discursive skills, contributing to linguistic analysis practices in the classroom.

This research study will benefit English students and teachers at UTPL because through it, the investigator will awake Reading and Writing teachers' interest in using blogs, discussion boards as supplementary material in their class to improve writing skills, having as a result more motivating and interesting classes as well as an improvement in the on-site system at UTPL.

## METHODOLOGY

### *Setting and participants*

This investigation took place in Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja which is located in Loja city. The participants were the group of students of the English Major enrolled in Reading and Writing IV course at UTPL with an average age between 19-20 years old. All of the students had Intermediate English Level.

### *Procedure*

This research project began with the writing of the Literature Review, for which it was necessary to work on a bibliographical research. Qualitative and quantitative methods were used to collect the data. The data obtained was organized in tables, per variables and indicators.

A survey was given to students in order to know how they feel about the use of blogs, discussion boards and online feedback in the process of improving writing skills.

In order to evaluate the use of discussion boards each student needed to comment on the articles or information that the teacher published on UTPL blogs, in this case the topic was about "*The best city to live in Ecuador*". The parameters to evaluate on the discussion boards and blogs were: Number of posts, interaction of teacher-students (participation), the quality of information and grammar.

In order to demonstrate if the use of blogs and discussion boards as supplementary material for improving writing skills in the EFL students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV in the On- Site System at UTPL, it was necessary to design writing blogs using UTPL blogs with the wordpress platform. The dominions of blogs were: <http://blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskills> and <http://blogs.utpl.edu.ec/>

*writingskill2/*. In this online space, information about writing, online feedback, compositions, learning English and videos was uploaded in order to improve the writing skills of the students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV. The sample consisted of 3 compositions per student. Each composition had an average length of 150-300 words. The topics of the compositions were: The best city to visit in Ecuador, Importance of Learning English and The best city to live in Ecuador. The aspects to evaluate the compositions were: Format, content, organization and grammar.

The result was tabulated in 12 tables according the variables and indicators taken account in this research study. Each table had the numerical and theoretical support in order to know if the use of blogs and discussions boards improved the writing skills in EFL students that participate in this study.

The results permitted know that not exist a real improvement of each composition written by student because they only made the corrections suggested by their teacher.

## DISCUSSION

The Discussion section comprises three parts: The first part is the Literature Review, which addresses the theory directly related to this research work, and provides a rationale that may work as a scientific basis for the following steps of this research study.

The second part is the Description, Analysis, and Interpretation of Results, which, based on the results obtained from the field research that intends to give an idea if students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV at on- site system at UTPL improve their writing skills after the use of those tools.

Finally, the last part includes the Conclusions and Recommendations, which are derived from the analysis carried out in the previous step and the experience acquired in this research study.

### Literature Review

This Literature Review covers the most significant and important topics related to the use of blogs and discussion boards in teaching. The topics addressed in the Literature Review are: The use of electronic communication tools for teaching English, Web 2.0, Blogs, Discussion Boards, EVA Electronic Communication Tools at UTPL, Collaborative Learning, Teaching Writing, E-writing, Motivation and Feedback in Online Environments.

#### *The use of electronic communication tools for teaching English.*

Computer technologies and electronic communication tools help the development of education, since they create more effective and productive learning environments where teachers and students share knowledge and learn in a more practical and innovative classroom. The use of multimedia, internet, digital communication and electronic resources has spread widely especially as a support for

learning. Computers and electronic communications tools have come to play a central role in education, because they permit teachers to make interactive classes.

Nowadays, the interest in the use of blogs and discussion boards to support education in general has grown substantially. According to Pope (2007), technology has always been implicitly central to an understanding of what “English” is or can be. After all, without manuscript and pens and without paper and print technologies there would be no texts and nothing to read, and virtually no historical dimension to the subject at all. This process was the basis for the development of new technologies especially in the teaching of English.

The new technology and the World Wide Web (Internet) offer a wide range of opportunities for both teachers and students interested in improving English Skills.

Nutt (2006), states that chat rooms, online forums, and discussion groups give the chance of practicing writing in English, with the opportunity to get some feedback on grammar and spelling. These new technologies are rapidly changing the face of education. In this changed educational environment, it is essential to improve principles and design a process that provides learners with effective educational experiences. This can be achieved by taking advantage of digital tools.

### *Web 2.0*

According to Reilly (2004), the term Web 2.0 is associated with web applications that facilitate participatory information sharing, interoperability, user-centered design, and collaboration on the World Wide Web.

Web 2.0 is defined as a new generation of Web services and applications with an increasing emphasis on human collaboration. The electronic communication tools are changing the way people communicate; for this reason Web 2.0 applications are emerging with potential in different areas especially on education. Some examples of

Web 2.0 include: Social networking sites, blogs, wikis, video sharing sites, hosted services, web applications, and discussion boards. The resources of Web 2.0 are grouped according to the interaction in synchronous and asynchronous tools.

#### *Synchronous Tools*

Ashley (2003), states that synchronous tools enable real-time communication and collaboration in a "*same time-different place*" mode. These tools allow people to connect at a single point in time, at the same time. Examples of synchronous tools are: Audio conferencing, web conferencing Video conferencing, chat and white boarding. The advantages of these tools are direct interaction between instructor and students and the possibility of creating a collaborative interactive learning.

#### *Asynchronous Tools*

According to Ashley (2003), asynchronous tools enable communication and collaboration over a period of time through a "*different time-different place*" mode. These tools allow people to connect together at each person's own convenience and own schedule. Asynchronous tools are useful for sustaining dialogue and collaboration over a period of time and providing people with resources and information that are instantly accessible, day or night. Examples of asynchronous tools are: Discussion boards, web logs (blogs), messaging (e-mail), streaming audio, streaming video, narrated slide shows "*Learning objects*", document libraries, databases, web books, teaching and training web site links and others.

Students of today use different forms of collaborative learning such as on-line discussion boards called blogs, groups of discussion, presentations, wikis and online collaborative software in order to share knowledge, and create virtual communities where students and teachers can interact.

## *blogs*

According to Rowse (2005), a blog (short for weblog) is a personal online journal that is frequently updated and intended for general public consumption. Blogs are defined by their format: a series of entries posted to a single page in reverse-chronological order. In addition Rowse (2005), states that a blog is a journal that is available on the web. Blogs generally represent the personality of the author or reflect the purpose of the Web site that hosts the blog. Topics sometimes include brief philosophical musings, commentary on Internet and other social issues, and links to other sites the author favors, especially those that support a point being made on a post.

The activity of updating a blog is “*blogging*” and someone who keeps a blog is a “*blogger*”. The use of blogs in instructional settings is limited only by your imagination. It is important to consider that blogs are defined by their format: a series of entries posted to a single page in reverse-chronological order.

According to Rowse (2005), the main advantages of blogs to teachers and students are:

- Web based authoring with design separate from content, better navigation and interaction with the blog.
- Permit searching of information, writing comments and saving the information in the cloud (internet).
- Databases of blogs are stored in server repository and every post is archived in chronological order.

On the other hand the disadvantages of blogs are:

- Blogs are easy to start but hard to maintain.

- Additionally, in a community of blogs or virtual spaces, interaction is the most important, requires the control of a virtual instructor in order to develop the goal of the blog in a correct way.

### *Discussion Boards*

According to Suler (2004), teachers around the world are inviting students into cyberspace to enrich their learning experience. The tools and techniques of using online resources for teaching are as diverse as the Internet itself. In this section will focus on the use of one of the online communication environments “*forums*” or “*discussion boards*”.

According to Hof (1997), discussion boards are online discussion sites where people can hold conversations in the form of posted messages; for example the teacher posts some articles or ideas and students share opinions or contribute with analysis on several topics, depending on the activity or purpose of the discussion.

The main advantages of use discussion boards are:

- Extending the time selected for discussions beyond regular class time to allow for in detail reflection on comments.
- Providing an outlet for students to pose their questions and receive feedback from not only the instructor, but also on other discussion board.

There are many activities to work within discussion boards for example:

Directed Discussions. - Invite students to discuss a specific topic or item: textbook chapter, novel, web site, case study.

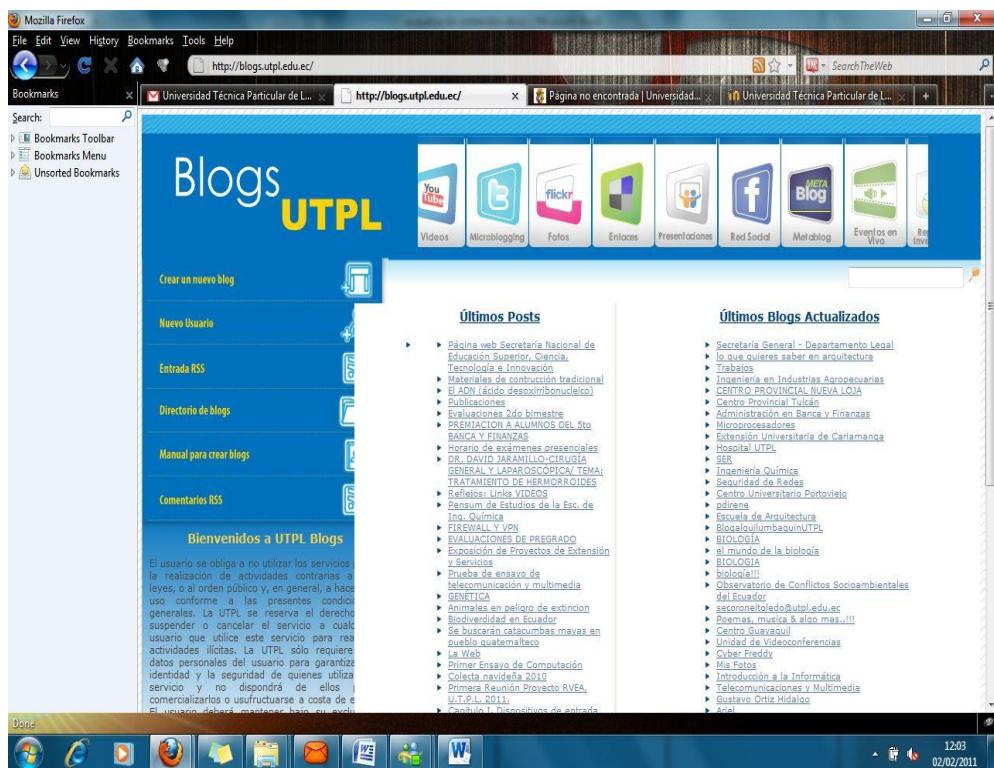
Debates. - As a twist on directed discussions, the instructor may divide students into two or more teams to first research different perspectives of some issue.

Critiques. -Discussion boards can also be used to provide students with feedback on their projects. If a student is tasked with writing a paper or developing a web site,

this document or media can be shared with other students for review. These tools permit to evaluate the grade of interaction and generation of knowledge in the discussion.

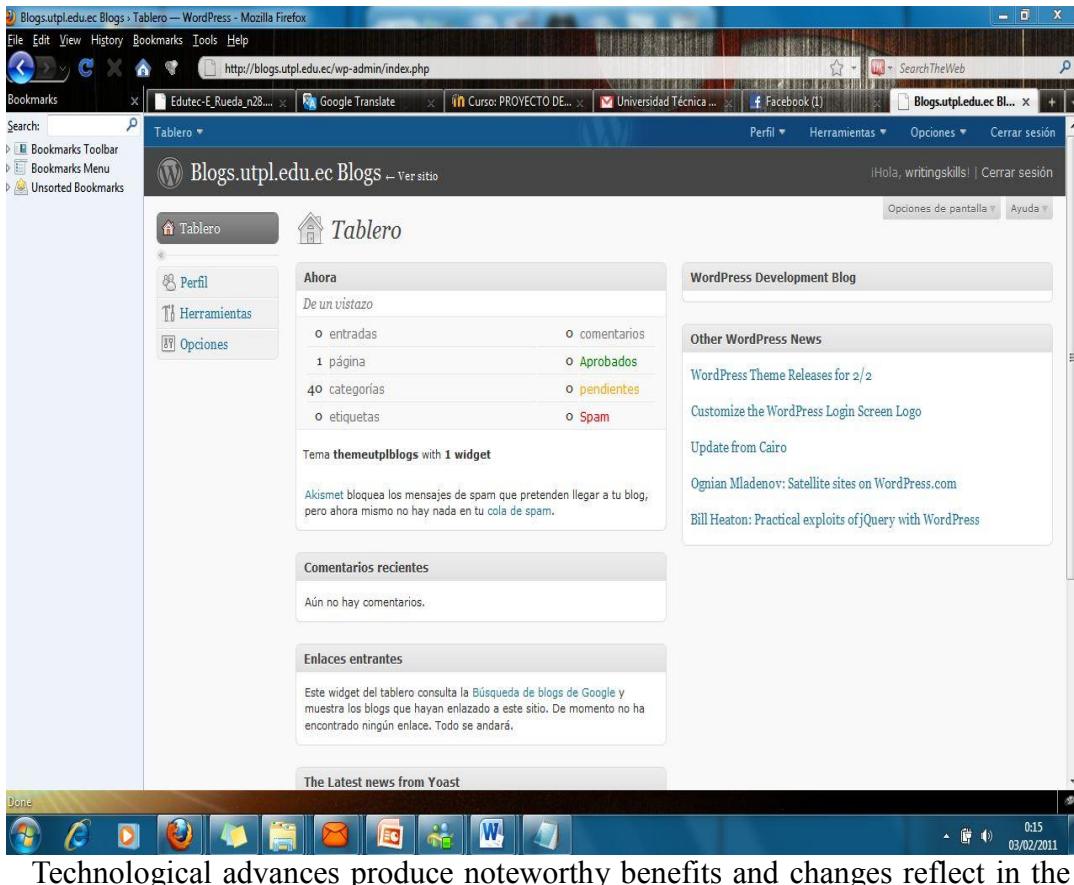
**Mentoring.** - Discussion boards can also be used openly, without overt moderation by the instructor. A board may simply be provided to students as a tool to ask questions of peers throughout the semester.

### *EVA Electronic Communication Tools at UTPL*



The UTPL uses the Web 2.0 tools to improve the learning process in the different areas of knowledge. The UTPL offers different electronic communication tools, but the most important is EVA (Entorno Virtual de Aprendizaje) a virtual space where teachers and students generate knowledge. EVA has many resources and tools to improve the different skills of UTPL students. The most important electronic communication tools that offer UTPL are blogs and discussion boards.

## Blogs at UTPL



Technological advances produce noteworthy benefits and changes reflect in the different sectors such as culture, art, politic, education, etc. The Web 2.0 or Web Social offers possibilities in the area of education, in short time we have gone from a Web static to a Web dynamic where the users have active participation.

According to Scoot P. (2001), the education perspective the availability and ease of use of blogging software makes creating blogs a viable classroom activity and a means for teachers to communicate with students.

The UTPL has many Blogs and virtual communities created in wordpress and, BlogSpot technology connected with Moodle platform that is a virtual platform where teachers and students interact. The UTPL has different blogs according to the area of knowledge or CITTES. Students, teachers and bloggers have the opportunity of interacting and creating a virtual space of learning. Additionally, the topics of the

blogs at UTPL include; content-related blogs as a professional practice, networking and personal knowledge sharing and instructional tips for students, course announcements and readings, annotated links, knowledge management, RSS message and posts.

In UTPL writing blog, the students have the opportunity of getting online feedback, write commentaries in order to share knowledge. Feedback can be regarded as a means of providing information and as reinforcing for revision. Feedback consists of comments and information about performance that someone has demonstrated.

In UTPL blogs students have the opportunity of making contributions on academic, personal and professional levels facilitating direct feedback between the actors of the learning process. The main characteristics of blogs at UTPL are:

- Highly interactive.
- Allow sharing ideas
- Permit reflective works or writing journals.
- Knowledge management.
- Dialogue for group work.
- Permit to work on E-portfolios.

Blogs can be used as a supplementary instrument in the learning process. Writers can receive clarification similar to a conversational experience. Blogs typically have comments, online resources and post to improve a specific skill.

## EVA Discussion Boards

**Jun DISSCUSION BOARD**  
**01** Posteado: 01-06-2011 por writingskills | Categorías asociadas: General

Please write your comments about The best city to live in Ecuador.

@Jessica\_Somerville

[Leer más](#)

### Comentarios

6 Comentarios ingresados en "DISSCUSION BOARD"

Comentó @yulia\_coronel el 13 de Junio del 2011 a 15:11

I think that the best city to live in Ecuador is Loja because it has a really quiet and peaceful atmosphere. People are welcoming and friendly. It's safe, it has a good education level it's not too expensive to live here and there are several places to go for the weekend with friends and family.

Loja is the most interesting and beautiful cities of Ecuador for these reasons and other visit this place.

Comentó @paulina\_granda el 14 de Junio del 2011 a 14:17

I agree with my classmates Yulia and Maria because the best Ecuadorian city to live is Loja . It has a lot of places where you can go on weekends.Also the food is delicious. Additionally , in Loja thee are a lot of of good high schools and universities that give us a good education.

Comentó @@mariasoledad\_rioefrio el 21 de Junio del 2011 a 23:14

I agree with Yulia. Loja is the best city to live, because it is very clean and small.

In my opinion, I think that it is a very interesting place, because it has a special culture with amazing history.

According Hof (1997), discussion boards are an online communication between multiple users, generally through text-style communication – occasionally through voice, in this context the Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja in their Entorno Virtual de Aprendizaje provides discussion boards so that users can share and discuss information and opinions. In this toll the instructor or moderator guides and leads the discussion to cover a range of issues deemed appropriate. In directed discussions, the instructor typically throws-out a question to kick-off the discussion. Students respond

to the instructor's question, and may begin to ask their own questions as well.

Directed discussions are usually moderated closely by the instructor.

### *Collaborative Learning*

According to Srinivas (2010), collaborative learning is a relationship among learners that need positive interdependence (a sense of sink or swim together), individual accountability (each of us has to contribute and learn), interpersonal skills (communication, trust, leadership, decision making, and conflict resolution), students learn better when they are actively involved in the process. Srinivas (2010), report that regardless of the subject matter, students working in small groups tend to learn more of what is taught and retain it longer than when the same content is presented in other instructional formats. Students who work in collaborative groups also appear more satisfied with their classes. In addition Jakes (2007) states that formal learning groups are teams established to complete a specific task, such as perform a lab experiment, write a report, carries out a project, or papers. These groups may complete their work in a single class session or over several weeks. Typically, students work together until the task is finished, and their project is graded.

### *Teaching Writing*

Writing is a skill which is both limited in value and difficult to acquire, we should be clear about the purpose of teaching it. Rowe and Levine (2009), state that writing is a visual representation of speech. Initially, writing was accomplished only by a small number of scribes.

In the 1400s, movable type was invented and documents could be mass produced. Today, anyone can post information on the Internet. When we write, we use graphic symbols that are the combination of letters which relate to the sound we make when we speak.

According to Sayan (2008) writing is essentially a solitary activity and the fact that we are required to write on our own, results in the lack of possibility of interaction or the benefit of feedback. When writing, it is important to organize the ideas in such a way that can be understood by the reader and transmit the message in the correct way. The reason for teaching writing to students of English as a Foreign Language includes reinforcement, language development, learning style and most importantly, writing as a skill in its own right. By far the most important reason for teaching writing, of course, is that it is a basic language skill just as important as speaking, listening or reading. Students need to know how to write letters, how to put written reports together, how to reply to advertisements and increasingly, how to write using electronic media.

According to Williams (2002), in the writing process computer and computer software can be a valuable tool for many students. In addition to this, word processing, speech recognition, speech feedback, word prediction, and other varieties of software packages may help students with learning disabilities to participate in well-developed classroom writing programs.

Besides, teaching writing skills can be difficult for any teacher, since the approach will be different for almost every student. Some will learn quickly, while others will need some encouragement and more attention to ensure they understand what they are being taught.

### *E-writing*

Dashkin (2003), states that E-writing is a writing done within the medium of networked computing. The technology has a significant impact on learning and development of writing skills; for example computer technology, especially word processing, has become a vital tool in writing for the students. More and more

students are looking for enhancing their technological skills through activities and experiences made available through technology especially with the use of electronic tools.

According to Wetzel (2012), technology has tremendous power to help students obtain, organize, manipulate, and display information. Adding to the same topic McDaniel (2009), states that technology has a very important role in the classroom today and can be used to teach important concepts in almost every subject area. It is important that teachers become comfortable with the many forms of technology that will enable them to increase student knowledge and proficiency.

### *Motivation*

Lintern (2008), states that motivation is a desire to achieve a goal, combined with the energy to work towards that goal. Students who are motivated have a desire to undertake their study and complete the requirements of their course. In the process of teaching English, motivation is the basis of developmental skills of the students in order to create effective learning. The motivation to learn a L2 and develop the English Basic Skills depends on the environment of the class and attitudes of the teachers.

Technology and motivation can also help students develop positive cooperative learning relationships; in such relationships students help each other to learn. Electronic communication tools can be motivating for a student because it requires active participation, interaction to develop the skills. Students learn best when they are actively involved in the process.

Andrew (2009), states that when students are actively engaged in a lesson they are also developing higher-order thinking skills and practicing problem solving strategies whether teaching a new technological skill or using technology to motivate

students, teachers must keep the lessons interactive and relevant. New technologies can provide meaningful learning experiences for all, for this reason educators need to include electronic resources in the syllabus especially in the process of teaching English.

Green (1996), states that technology also can help students develop positive cooperative learning relationships, enabling them to work together while researching topics and creating presentations. In such relationships, students help each other to learn. Students with special needs may require more coaching in computer-based activities, but they will benefit from the experience of learning with and from other students.

The end result of the use of electronic communication tools is an extremely interactive class with the students participating dynamically and producing real knowledge.

#### *Feedback in Online Environments*

According to Kelly (2005), feedback is information a teacher or another speaker, including another learner, gives to learners on how well they are doing, either to help the learner improve specific points, or to help plan their learning. Johnson model (1988), states that feedback is crucial and necessary for the acquisition and perfection of writing skills. Feedback should include information on both content and form.

According to Stemler (1997), “ *Online Feedback can be defined as output, usually displayed on a screen, to tell students how successful they have been in solving problems or to provide information about the quality of their response to a test-like event*” As this author says, feedback should be used for more than correction, such as sending motivating messages. Feedback is the fuel for interaction in any context in which it occurs, even when such interaction occurs between

humans and machines. For this reason, some researchers have studied ways of providing feedback in human-computer interactions.

Feedback plays an important role in human interactions, whether they are in spontaneous conversation, classroom interaction or on-line interaction.

According to Schwartz & White (2000), students in virtual classrooms consider feedback to be effective when it is:

1. Timely and thorough
2. Formative and summative
3. Constructive, supportive and substantive
4. Specific, objective, and individual
5. Consistent

According to Walker (2005), students need two kinds of feedback to perfect their writing skills: (1) feedback towards a better mastery of the formal properties of the target language and (2) feedback to develop procedural knowledge for creating and expressing ideas. The former is a ‘mechanical’ issue and may appear in the form of error correcting, while the latter may be qualitative and presented as advice or questions to guide the student to refine ideas and negotiate meaning in the process of composing. In order for the student to learn from the writing process, a more interactive and student-centered approach in giving feedback to students is required.

## Results

Table1

*Preferences about Writing Courses*

Indicators	Frequency	%
Writing courses in which you do not use blogs, discussion boards and online feedback.	0	0
Writing courses in which you can use blogs, discussion boards and online feedback.	6	100

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AUTHOR: Pablo Alejandro Quezada Sarmiento.

SOURCE: EFL students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV at on- site system at UTPL

Table 2

*Advantages of using Blogs to Improve Writing Skills*

Indicators	Frequency	%
Blogs help to interact with the teacher.	6	100
Blogs help to get feedback from the teacher immediately.	2	33,3
Blogs help to solve doubts about how to write.	2	33,3
Blogs make it easier to work with other students and produce collaborative learning.	3	50
Blogs help to produce multiple drafts.	5	83,3

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Table 3

*Use of Discussion Boards to Improve Writing Skills*

Indicators	Frequency	%
Help to interact with classmates and share ideas about writing.	3	50
Facilitate writing activities with the information about how to write.	3	50
Interactive participation.	6	100
Motivates to improve writing skills.	6	100

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Table 4

*Forms that Blogs and Discussion Boards Help to Improve Writing Skills*

Indicators	Frequency	%
Interaction with the teacher and students.	5	83,3
Get extra information from the teacher.	2	33,3
Share opinions among students.	2	33,3

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SOURCE: EFL students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV at on- site system at UTPL

Table 5

*Online Feedback to Improve Writing Skills*

Indicators	Frequency	%
Grammar.	5	83,3
Structure and punctuation.	3	50

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SOURCE: EFL students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV at on- site system at UTPL

Table 6

*Factors Improved through Online Feedback*

Indicators	Frequency	%
Grammar	5	83,3
Punctuation	3	50
Motivation	4	66,3

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SOURCE: EFL students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV at on- site system at UTPL

Table 7

*Frequency of Use of Blog and Discussion Boards in Writing Courses*

Indicators	Frequency	%
Always	1	16,3
Mostly	2	33,3
Somewhat	2	33,3
Not at all	1	16,3

AUTHOR: Pablo Alejandro Quezada Sarmiento.

SOURCE: EFL students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV at on- site system at UTPL

Table 8

*Discussion Board Scoring*

Students	Parameters evaluate Discussion Boards.	DISSCUSION BOARD		SCORE/3
		PARCIAL		
Student A	Quality of Information Participation Language	3 2 2		2,33
Student B	Quality of Information Participation Language	2 1 2		1,66
Student C	Quality of Information Participation Language	2 2 2		2
Student D	Quality of Information Participation Language	2 1 2		1,66
Student E	Quality of Information Participation Language	3 2 2		2,33
Student F	Quality of Information Participation Language	3 2 2		2,33
		TOTAL		2,05

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AUTHOR: Pablo Alejandro Quezada Sarmiento.

SOURCE: EFL students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV at on- site system at UTPL

Table 9

*Composition1 Scoring*

Students	Parameters for evaluating Composition.	FIRST DRAFT		SECOND DRAFT	
		Partial 1	Score/5	Partial 2	Score/5
Student A	Format	4,66	4,08	5	4,5
	Content	4		4	
	Organization	3,66		4	
	Grammar	4		5	
	Format	4,3	3,9	5	4,25
Student B	Content	3		4	
	Organization	4		4	
	Grammar	4		4	
	Format	4,66	4,08	5	4,83
Student C	Content	4		5	
	Organization	3,66		4,33	
	Grammar	4		5	
	Format	4,66	4,08	5	4,65
Student D	Content	4		5	
	Organization	3,66		4,66	
	Grammar	4		4	
	Format	4,66	4,16	5	4,83
Student E	Content	4		5	
	Organization	4		4,33	
	Grammar	4		5	
	Format	3,33	4,16	5	4,25
Student F	Content	4		4	
	Organization	3,33		4	
	Grammar	3		4	
TOTAL			4,07		4,55

AUTHOR: Pablo Alejandro Quezada Sarmiento.

SOURCE: EFL students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV at on- site system at UTPL

Table 10  
*Composition 2 Scoring*

	Parameters for evaluating Composition	FIRST DRAFT		SECOND DRAFT	
		Partial 1	Score/5	Partial 2	Score/5
Student A	Format	4,66	4,16	5	4,75
	Content	4		5	
	Organization	4		4	
	Grammar	4		5	
Student B	Format	4,66	4,08	5	4,75
	Content	4		5	
	Organization	3,66		4	
	Grammar	4		5	
Student C	Format	4,66	4,16	5	4,75
	Content	4		5	
	Organization	4		4	
	Grammar	4		5	
Student D	Format	4	4	5	4,5
	Content	4		4	
	Organization	4		4	
	Grammar	4		5	
Student E	Format	3,66	3,15	5	4,5
	Content	3		4	
	Organization	3,66		4	
	Grammar	3		5	
Student F	Format	3	3,25	5	4,25
	Content	4		4	
	Organization	3		4	
	Grammar	3		4	
TOTAL			3,8		4,58

AUTHOR: Pablo Alejandro Quezada Sarmiento.

SOURCE: EFL students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV at on- site system at UTPL

Table 11

*Composition 3 Scoring*

Students	Parameters for evaluating Composition.	FIRST DRAFT		SECOND DRAFT	
		Partial 1	Score/5	Partial 2	Score/5
Student A	Format	4,66	4,08	5	4,9
	Content	4		5	
	Organization	3,66		4,66	
	Grammar	4		5	
Student B	Format	4,33	4	5	4,25
	Content	4		4	
	Organization	3,66		4	
	Grammar	4		5	
Student C	Format	4	4	5	4,9
	Content	4		5	
	Organization	4		4,66	
	Grammar	4		5	
Student D	Format	4,66	4,08	5	4,6
	Content	4		5	
	Organization	3,66		4,6	
	Grammar	4		4	
Student E	Format	4,66	4,08	5	4,5
	Content	4		5	
	Organization	3,66		4	
	Grammar	4		4	
Student F	Format	3,33	3,53	5	4,5
	Content	4		5	
	Organization	3		4	
	Grammar	4		4	
			3,96		4,57
<b>TOTAL</b>					

AUTHOR: Pablo Alejandro Quezada Sarmiento.

SOURCE: EFL students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV at on- site system at UTPL

Table 12

*Compositions 1to 3 Scorings*

		Composition 1. The best city to visit in Ecuador		Composition 2. Importance of learning English		Composition 3. The best city to live in Ecuador	
Students	VARIABLES	FIRST DRAFT Score	SECOND DRAFT Score	FIRST DRAFT Score	SECOND DRAFT Score	FIRST DRAFT Score	SECOND DRAFT Score
Student A	Format Content Organization Grammar	4,08	4,5	4,16	4,75	4,08	4,9
Student B	Format Content Organization Grammar	3,9	4,25	4,08	4,75	4	4,5
Student C	Format Content Organization Grammar	4,08	4,83	4,16	4,75	4	4,9
Student D	Format Content Organization Grammar	4,08	4,65	4	4,5	4,08	4,83
Student E	Format Content Organization Grammar	4,16	4,83	3,15	4,5	4,83	4,5
Student F	Format Content Organization Grammar	4,16	4,25	3,25	4,25	3,58	4,5
TOTAL		4,07	4,55	3,8	4,58	3,96	4,57

AUTHOR: Pablo Alejandro Quezada Sarmiento.

SOURCE: EFL students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV at on- site system at UTPL

### *Description, Analysis and Interpretation of Results*

The following part of this study contains an analysis of the results obtained and tabulated after the field research. This analysis has been divided into two sections.

The first section included analysis about a survey applied in order to know students opinions about the use of blogs and discussion boards in writing courses. The survey consisted of seven questions about preferences of use of technology in writing courses, advantages of using blogs, discussion boards, online feedback to improve their writing skills, factors improved through online feedback and frequency of use of blogs and discussion boards in writing courses.

The second section includes an analysis about the use of blogs and discussion board as supplementary material in order to demonstrate if students improved their writing skills with the use of these tools. This section of analysis was supported by the composition and discussion board written by student in this study. In the same way this section included a comparative analysis which used numerical information obtained from all drafts written in the two platforms Google Docs and UTPL Blogs.

The survey's results are shown in the description of each table with the respective support.

Table 1 (Preferences about Writing Courses) show that the 6 students in this research study prefer courses that include blogs, discussion boards and online feedback. According to them these supplementary materials make the class more attractive, interesting and permit the interaction among the teacher and students.

According to Davis (2008), blogs provide the space for sharing opinions and learning in order to increase online communities of knowledge and a space where teacher and students can learn from each other. In this writing course students had the opportunity to produce collective and collaborative learning because all of them

were able to learn from one another. Furthermore blogs and discussion boards help to the contribution and the possibility of reviewing mistakes. Students also had the chance to read their classmates' posts; such opportunity is not possible in regular writing classes. In addition Glencoe (2010) considers that the use of blogs opens the opportunity for students to discuss topics outside the classroom. With a blog, every person has an equal opportunity to share their thoughts and opinions.

The first item of Table 2 (*Advantages of using Blogs to Improve Writing Skills*), shows that 6 students representing the 100% of the participants in the research study consider that blogs help the interaction between students and teacher. Students have the opportunity to share ideas, information about the writing field and also comment about their writing jobs.

The second item shows that 2 students that represent the 33, 3%, think that blogs help to get feedback from the teacher quicker than in a traditional class. Students can see those corrections and observations as soon as the teacher posts them.

The third item indicates that 2 students that represent the 33, 3%, think that blogs help to solve doubts about how to write.

The fourth item shows that 3 students that represent the 50% believe that blogs make easier to work with other students and produce collaborative learning.

Blogs provide many resources to work on these activities for example online interaction, posts and links about writing. Blogs use technology to control and monitor interactions, to regulate tasks, rules, and roles, and to mediate the acquisition of new knowledge.

Furthermore, 5 students consider that blogs are excellent supplementary tools in writing classes because they give the opportunity of producing many drafts of a composition in order to improve their writing skills.

According to Moore (2012), blogs work well for students because they can work on virtually at any time, in any place with an Internet-enabled computer within an unlimited space of time and use as much time as they need. This cannot occur in traditional classes where time is limited for each activity.

The use of blogs according to Glencoe (2010), motivate students, especially those who otherwise might not become participants in classrooms. Blogs provide a space where teachers and students can work to further develop writing or other skills with the advantage of an instant audience. Furthermore teachers can offer instructional tips, and students can practice and benefit from peer review. Blogs give students an audience and a community to learn. The blog experience is often ongoing, and the learning continues as dialogue unfolds.

Table 3 (*Use of Discussion Boards to Improve Writing Skills*), shows that 3 students, which means 50% of the participants, think that discussion boards promote interaction, permit sharing ideas about writing because the discussion board allows students to work together on writing projects and participate in on-going discussions focused on course content in this case about writing.

The second item shows that 3 students that constitute 50% of the sample believe that discussion boards facilitate the writing activities because students have the opportunity of sharing information and tips concerning the topics proposed to complete their task, at the same time they can access the information that the teacher posts in order to do a better job.

Finally the 6 students who participated in the research study think that the use of discussion boards motivate to work on writing activities because this supplementary tool provides many resources to conduct an interactive class in which participation is equitable and productive.

According to Grosky (2011), the use of interactive lesson plans and online teaching methods can help students learn new concepts; hands-on activities keep students interested in the subject and provide an enjoyable learning environment. Interactive learning experiences and interactive learning tools, such as blogs and discussion boards give the opportunity of interacting among students and teachers and produce an interactive environment of classes.

Table 4 (*Forms that Blogs and Discussion Boards Help to Improve Writing Skills*) shows student's opinions about the different ways in which blogs and discussion boards help to improve writing skills. The results describe that 5 students which means 83,3% of the total of students consider that blogs and discussion boards generate interaction among the teacher and student because these supplementary tools permit students and teachers to post information, tips and opinions. As complement to the prior information Palloff R. (2003), states that discussion boards are a great resource tool for allowing participants to freely express their thoughts on a common topic at their own pace and generate collaborative learning.

Table 5 shows the students opinions about the use of online feedback to improve their writing skills. The students in the research study consider that online feedback help to improve their writing skills. This resource gives the opportunity of interacting with the teacher in order to learn about their errors and subsequently to know about what correction they need to take in to consideration.

Online feedback is an essential part of education and help students in their acquisition of L2 because it helps learners to maximize their potential at different stages of writing, raise their awareness of strengths and areas for improvement, and identify actions to be taken to improve their performance.

Table 6 (*Factors Improved through Online Feedback*) shows the student's opinion about online feedback in order to improve grammar and punctuation. The result shows that 5 students which means 83,3% of the total of students consider that online feedback permit to improve the use of grammar, such as the use of verb tenses, connectors, pronouns, articles, nouns, modals, gerund and infinitives.

On the other hand from the 6 students 3 of them representing 50% consider that online feedback help to improve punctuation in the compositions.

Finally, 4 students 66,3% think that online feedback help to improve their writing skills because it is an interactive resource to share ideas make online corrections and have better interaction between teacher and student in order to generate knowledge. As a complement to the prior information, Willis (2007), states that the three essential conditions students need are motivation to learn, motivation to process the exposure, to receive, and motivation to use the target language as often as possible. The motivation to learn a L2 and develop the English Basic Skills depends on the environment of the class, attitude of the teachers and the materials that used to improve English.

Table 7 (*Frequency of Use of Blogs, Discussion Boards in Writing Courses*) shows the frequency of use of blogs and discussion boards during the process of the research study. The results determined that students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV at on site system at UTPL used these tools 4273 interactions with different links, posts and information in order to improve the writing skills. Blogging with university students can be an extremely rewarding experience. With their own blogs, students can have a place for publishing their own writing; creating authentic learning spaces where every student can contribute and engage in conversations.

## Comparative Analysis

This section includes a comparative analysis which uses information obtained from the data collected. The parameters taken into consideration in this research study were: The use of discussion board such as supplementary material to improve writing skills with the topic “The best city to live in Ecuador”. Another parameter was the 3 compositions written by students that participated in this study. The first drafts were writing in Google Docs platform and second drafts in UTPL Blogs.

The comparative analysis begins with results about the use of discussion board in the process of improving writing skills.

Table 8 (Discussion Board Scoring), shows the results about the use of discussion boards during the research study. The parameters taken into consideration were: Quality of information, participation and language.

The quality of information was evaluated according to the relevance and coherence of the information.

The student participation was evaluated according to the number of post and interaction with the instructor and other members of the online community. To assign the score each student was identified with the letters A, B, C, D, E and F. This score allowed to establish if the use of discussion boards and blogs used as supplementary material helped to improve writing skills of students that participated in this study. In the link <http://blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskill2/disscusion-board/> it can be observed the discussion board section.

DISSCUSION BOARD	Observations	Teacher
0 Posteado: 01-06-2011 por writingskills   1 Categorías asociadas: <i>General</i>		
Please write your comments about “The best city to live in Ecuador”. @Jessica_Somerville  Edit. Leer más  Comentarios  6 Comentarios ingresados en "DISSCUSION BOARD"		
Comentó @yulia_coronel el 13 de Junio del 2011 a 15:11		A
I think that the best city to live in Ecuador is Loja because it has a really quiet and peaceful atmosphere. People are welcoming and friendly. It's safe; <b>it has a good education level</b> it's not too expensive to live here and <b>there be</b> several places to go for the weekend with friends and family. Loja is the most interesting and beautiful cities of Ecuador for these reasons and others invite you to visit this place.	In this post, the student uses the incorrect tense for this phrase and makes a mix with verbs and adjectives.	
Comentó @@mariasoledad_riofrio el 21 de Junio del 2011 a 23:14		B
I agree with Yulia. Loja is the best city to live, because it is very clean and small. In my opinion it is a very interesting place, because it has a special culture with an amazing history.		

---

Comentó @geovanny\_jimenez el 25 de Junio  
del 2011 a 11:23

C

The best city to live in Ecuador is Cuenca. It's near interesting cities and there are many activities to do and places to visit. In Cuenca there are a variety of culture and customs. Cuenca has traditional culture where people wear traditional clothes and talk with a different accent. It's common to see a traditional "Chola Cuencana" walking on streets with a baby in their backs. Furthermore, the way they talk is a little different because they have a particular accent. They use a lot of slangs. All of these things make of Cuenca an interesting city to visit.

---

Comentó @paulina\_granda el 14 de Junio del  
2011 a 14:17

D

I agree with my classmates Yulia and Maria because the best Ecuadorian city to live is Loja. It has a lot of places where you can go on weekends. Also the food is delicious. Additionally, in Loja there are a lot of good high schools and universities that give us an excellent education.

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Comentó @Daniel Alejandro Ojeda Riascos el

E

27 de Junio del 2011 a 18:27

In my opinion the best place to live is Loja

city. Loja is one of the cleanest cities in

Ecuador. Loja **have** beautiful and interesting

The incorrect use of the

places to visit for example Jipiro Park where verb (has).

you can see interesting monuments, animals

and know more about of the culture of Loja.

Other interesting place in Loja is the Central

Park where you know different characteristic

of Loja.

---

Comentó @Jessika Mariuxi Granda Vélez el

F

27 de Junio del 2011 a 19:05

In my opinion the best city to live in Ecuador

is Loja **because have** beautiful places to visit. This sentence does not contain subject.

The people are very friendly, sociable and

honest. I agree with Yulia because Loja is

really quite.

---

SOURCE: <http://blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskill2/disscusion-board/>

Students A, E, F wrote clear information related to the main topic but the interaction was null. The students only repeated the ideas, and did not contribute as we wished.

Students B and D wrote a relevant contribution in the discussion, but only responded to the instructor.

Finally student C wrote relevant information in the discussion board but he did not respond to another member in the online community.

In the posts written by students we can observed some grammar mistakes such as the incorrect use of plural forms, gerunds, verbs (have and to be ). Furthermore, the students had problems in the organization of ideas. In the post we can observe a mix of different ideas that did not support the topic.

In general the interaction in the discussion board was null but permitted that students know about the use of this tool in order to improve their writing skills.

Another component of this research study to be analyzed is the three compositions which were written by the students. Each composition was on a different topic. The first composition “*The best city to visit in Ecuador*”, the second composition was “*Importance of Learning English*” and the third composition was “*The best city to live in Ecuador*”, for each topic students wrote 2 drafts in each of them. Format, content, organization and grammar were evaluated. The evaluation was done taking in consideration the rubric and online feedback.

Regarding format, the parameters evaluated were: The title format, spaces, punctuation and capitalization in the paragraphs. Additionally the content was evaluated taking into consideration the relevance of the information according to each one of the topics.

Another important point is the organization in which the logical sequence of the information in each paragraph was evaluated. Another aspect taken into account was the correct citation according to APA format.

Besides, in order to evaluate the grammar it was considered the correct use of grammar rules.

In order to demonstrate if the use of blogs and discussion boards helped to improve the writing skills on students that participated in this research study Google Docs platform was used to collect the sample of the first draft which allowed to the teacher share ideas, make online corrections and store documents in the cloud (internet).

The second draft was written in the blog <http://blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskill2> at UTPL Blogs platform. In UTPL Blogs students had the opportunity of improving their writing skills because this tool provides different resources and interacting environment. The results of each student were showed in the 2 platforms Google Docs and UTPL Blogs.

This section begins with the description of the compositions written by each student that participated in this study. The students were categorized with letters A, B, C, D, E and F in order to identify each composition and determine the improvement between drafts. The topic of composition 1 was “*The best city to visit in Ecuador*”.

Composition 1, Draft 1 Student A.

Student A wrote 397 words in his first draft. There were some mistakes in this composition. Regarding format the paragraphs did not have spaces. The paragraphs did not show accuracy in punctuation and capitalization. Student A did not pay attention in the use of capitalization rules such as capitalize the first word of a quoted sentence, in the composition this mistake you can observe in the sentence “*cajas National Park*”. Another mistake referent to capitalization was the inadequate capitalization of proper noun “*cuenca*”.

About content this composition did not include relevant information about the topic because the student wrote about different places to visit in Cuenca. The ideas of the thesis statement were not supported in the correct way.

Also, in this composition student A did not keep focused in the thesis statement; each sentence was not connected to the thesis statement and did not offer an identifiable, well-phrased idea to be proven in the paragraph; it lacked of support of the argument of each topic sentence so the points of each paragraph was unclear.

Referring to organization the first draft was structured incorrectly, the sequence of information did not have logical; the information is difficult to follow. Another aspect that is not considered in the first draft was the use of transition words. In some paragraphs the ideas are not connected. Student A did not use citations; some phrases were plagiaries from other author.

Regarding grammar in this draft student A had problems with the use of connector causal “Because” that is necessary to express consequences. Another problem was the incorrect use of plural of nouns for example in the word “*lake*” the student A did not use the plural forms.

In composition 1, draft1 written by student A shows the mistakes made by student A and the online feedback done by the teacher.

Composition 1, draft 1 written by Student A.

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The best city to visit in Ecuador

The bad use of the connectors, first is

The best city to visit in Ecuador is Cuenca. the connector and after the sentence.

Cuenca is known as a very cultural city for  
its unique blend of modernity and colonial  
charm in every place you go. There you

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can find out so much of Ecuadorian culture. For example you can visit Chordeleg (which) that is famous (for) of its elaboration of fine jewelry in silver and gold.

(space)

You also can visit the famous “cajas Also, you can visit the famous “Cajas National Park”; here you will find an National Park” infinitive diversity of flora and fauna. Also The use of the word ever is ~~in Cuenca you can be part of the best~~ inappropriate. ~~parties ever.~~

Cuenca has been recognized for the cultural richness that stems from its unique blend of modernity(y) and colonial charm

There is not logical sequential in the composition.

- a blend that leaves the distinct impression that the city's development, from pre-colonial civilization to modern-day urban center has been driven by a preconceived plan to leave behind and highlight the best of art and architecture as a testimony to the cultural eminence of the Americas. And for this reason it had been named the Cultural Capital of the Americas for the year 2002.

Chordeleg is a beautiful little town very

Did you write this? If not you must cite.

---

famous for its jewelry: in Chordeleg central park it is common to see craft fairs where you can buy different products.

Around this park there are many craft stores where you can see the process of elaboration of these products.

La Greta is another great place to visit where the image of the Virgin of the Cloud is venerated and where religious celebrations take place. And you must visit “cajas National Park” that is known for its beautiful flora and fauna, and especially because it has 232 lake(s) all over the valleys.

Do not translate the name Virgen de la Nube

Review plural forms and pronouns.

Loma de tres Cruces that is located in this park, you can find the watershed between You going to the Amazon and those moving to the Pacific.

Lastly, cuenca used to be a sleepy, Cuenca provincial city, but local young folk and visiting tourists have turned this into a respectable little party city. For quiet drinking and conversation, Underbars Café and La Parola. cuenca' stop bar and Cuenca hangout is Eucalyptus, which has a

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popular Ladies' Night every Wednesday

and a rowdy salsa night every Saturday.

cuenca is a city filled of (with) culture, Cuenca amazing historical places, wonderful people that are very friendly and great parties. This is a city that is totally worth It is translated literally.  
to visit.



**rw4utpl**

22:51 05/06/2011

Please Review transition words in writing blog.

Review APA format to cite correctly.

Review plural form and verbs times

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SOURCE:[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bnrt7Sn52TFB\\_XUoIQD-5rFpJX2T0f1sm2JTC5p4AVo/edit?hl=es](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bnrt7Sn52TFB_XUoIQD-5rFpJX2T0f1sm2JTC5p4AVo/edit?hl=es)

Composition 1, Draft 2, Student A.

Student A wrote 293 words in her second draft, in which the format was improved because the paragraphs showed accuracy in punctuation and capitalization.

Student A included the online feedback given by the teacher consequently this draft was improvement.

In the second draft Student A used the capitalization rules in correct way: The capitalization the quoted sentences and proper nouns were correct.

Regarding content and organization were the same in the two drafts. Student A did not include specific information about Cuenca consequently the thesis statement did not support. In this draft it can be observe the use of some transition words in order to connect the ideas but some ideas not support the topic.

Finally grammar patterns were improved in the second draft. Student A wrote their second composition with a few errors, the use of plural nouns was solved, and connecting words were used however it is important to consider that students only correct that the teacher suggested through the online feedback.

In composition 1, draft2 written by student A we can observe the improvement of the composition and the link where the student had extra information and online feedback given by the teacher.

Composition 1, draft 2 written by Student A.

May ESSAY1 @yulia\_coronel

17 Posteado: 17-05-2011 por writingskills | Categorías asociadas: ESSAY1

The best city to visit in Ecuador is Cuenca. Cuenca is known as a very cultural city for its unique blend of modernity and colonial charm in every place you go. There you can find out so much about Ecuadorian culture for example you can visit Chordeleg which is famous for the elaboration of fine jewelry in silver and gold.

Cuenca has been recognized for the cultural richness that stems from its unique blend of modernity and colonial charm - a blend that leaves the distinct impression that the city's development, from pre-colonial civilization to modern-day urban center has been driven by a preconceived plan to leave behind and highlight the best of art and architecture as a testimony to the cultural eminence of the Americas. And for this reason it had been named the Cultural Capital of the Americas for the year 2002.

Chordeleg is a beautiful little town very famous for its jewelry: in Chordeleg central park it is common craft fairs where you can buy different products. Around this park there are many craft stores where you can also see the process of elaboration of these products.

Lastly Cuenca used to be a sleepy, provincial city, but local young folk and visiting

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tourists have turned this into a respectable little party city. For quiet drinking and conversation, underbars Café and La Parola.

Regarding, Cuenca's top bar and hangout is Eucalyptus, which has a popular Ladies' Night every Wednesday and a rowdy salsa night every Saturday.

Cuenca is a city filled of culture, amazing historical places, wonderful people that are very friendly and great parties. This is a city that is totally worth to visit.

Leer más

Comentarios

1 Comentario ingresados en "ESSAY1 @yulia\_coronel"

Comentó ONLINE FEEDBACK el 05 de Junio del 2011 a 22:58

Please Review the online feedback.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bnrt7Sn52TFB\\_XUoIQD-5rFpJX2T0f1sm2JTC5p4AVo/edit?hl=es](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bnrt7Sn52TFB_XUoIQD-5rFpJX2T0f1sm2JTC5p4AVo/edit?hl=es)

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SOURCE: <http://blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskill2/2011/05/17/prueba/>

Composition 1, Draft 1, Student B.

In the same way student B wrote his compositions using Google Docs platform and UTPL blogs. Student B wrote 271 words composition in which can observe some problems in the format. Regarding punctuation and capitalization she did not capitalize proper nouns in the correct way, this mistake is showed when she used the proper noun "*ambato*". Another mistake was the incorrect use of commas and full stop period.

Regarding organization student B did not cite the information taken from other author. Neither has he presented any original ideas.

Student B used most of the grammar structures correctly. Few errors were found they. Incorrect use the indefinites articles "*a*" and "*an*" were the most common mistakes. The student B did not consider the rule: Use "*a*" when the word that follows referring to begins with a consonant (b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v,

w, x, y or z), for example, "a city", "a factory", in the draft this mistake is observed in the sentence *I think that it is a very interesting place because it has an special culture with amazing places to know*. The same mistake is showed in the sentences: *Ambato is an small and clean city*. Next the referred composition is shown. Improvements, comments and online feedback can be seen too.

Composition 1, draft 1 written by Student B.

---

The best city to visit in Ecuador

ambato is the best city to visit in Ecuador. Ambato

In my opinion, I think that it is a very interesting place, because it has an special a special culture with amazing places to know .you can spend time there with your family or friends doing new things or just for relaxing.

I like this city because, it has a great Don't forget at commas weather; I think that this is an important thing that you need to consider when you travel to other place or city. The weather of ambato city it is warm and cold, Review capitalization depending on the time of year that you Wrong preposition of travel to this place.

ambato is (a)an small and clean city; the Ambato is a small and clean city surroundings of this city are unique and beautiful, for example you can see many rivers, waterfalls, lakes, mountains, and a

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volcano. If you want you can contract a It is missing a comma tour, (it) is most convenient for you too able to see, visit and enjoy in live all these Lack of subject (It) things.

In this place you can practice Extreme sport for example: bungee-jumping, hiking or bicycling,(.) In my personal opinion I think that these sports have a special felling, because when you practice the feeling bungee-jumping you can express some feelings that you saved inside your personality. I suppose that it is a good treatment for stress.

For these reasons I think that Ambato is one of the most beautiful cities of this country. It is a good place to visit and know about the customs and traditions of this city. In this place you can do many activities like extreme sports and you can visit many place of nature for relaxing.

Extreme sports

Here it is necessary a comma.



READING WRITING

1:53 AM Jun 13, 2011

Review transitions words, punctuation and spaces.

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SOURCE:[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PXN8EwG8Ra4ka9o7SlyQISzyXP88ofF2J8Pp2eTebxM/edit?hl=en\\_US](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PXN8EwG8Ra4ka9o7SlyQISzyXP88ofF2J8Pp2eTebxM/edit?hl=en_US)

## Composition 1, Draft 2, Student B.

Student B wrote 217 words composition in his second draft. The format was improved because the paragraphs showed accuracy in punctuation and capitalization. In the second draft Student B used the capitalization rules correctly: The capitalization of proper nouns was correct. The mistake in the proper noun “*Ambato*” was resolved. Regarding grammar the mistakes were resolved. The student B considered the correct use of article “a” and “an”.

However in this composition the student B did not organize the ideas correctly and the draft lacked coherence and cohesion.

In Composition 1, draft 1 written by Student B the improvements of this composition, commentaries and online feedback can be observed.

## Composition 1, draft 2 written by Student B.

May **ESSAY1@mariasoledad\_rioefrio**

16 Posteado: 16-05-2011 por writingskills | Categorías asociadas: ESSAY1

Ambato is the best city to visit in Ecuador. In my opinion Ambato is a very interesting place because it has a special culture; amazing places to visit you can spend time there with your family or friends doing new things or just for relax.

I like this city because it has a great weather; I think that this is an important thing that you need to consider when you travel to another place or city. The weather of Ambato city is warm or cold, depending on the time of the year that you travel to this place.

Ambato is a small, clean unique and beautiful city, for example you can see many rivers, waterfalls, lakes, mountains, and a volcano. In this place you can practice extreme sports for example: bungee-jumping, hiking. In my personal opinion I think that these sports have a special felling, because when you practice the bungee-

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jumping you can express some feelings that you saved inside your personality.

For these reasons I think that Ambato is one of the most beautiful cities of this country. It is a good visit this place because we do many activities like extreme sports and you can visit many places of nature for relaxing. If you travel to Ambato you have a fantastic experience of this place.

Leer más

Comentarios

2 Comentarios ingresados en "ESSAY1@mariasoledad\_rio frio"

Comentó ONLINE FEEDBACK el 01 de Junio del 2011 a 2:03

#### REVIEW ONLINE FEEDBACK

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PXN8EwG8Ra4ka9o7SlyQISzyXP88ofF2J8Pp2eTebxM/edit?hl=en\\_US](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PXN8EwG8Ra4ka9o7SlyQISzyXP88ofF2J8Pp2eTebxM/edit?hl=en_US)

Comentó Ireland el 15 de Junio del 2011 a 9:32

Thanks for the insight. It brings light into the dark!

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SOURCE: <http://blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskill2/2011/05/16/essay-1/>

Composition 1, Draft 1, Student C.

Student C wrote his first composition in 253 words. This student had some mistakes in punctuation and capitalization, such as the use of period (full stop) to denote a full stop at the end of a statement.

Regarding content the first composition written by student C included some relevant information but the information was not clear in some paragraphs.

In relation to organization student C did not present information in logical sequence. Few appropriate transition words were used.

Student C made some grammar mistakes for example the incorrect use of auxiliary have, comparatives, simple past, and plurals. In the next sentences it can be observed these mistakes.

- Guayaquil is the best city in Ecuador. It has an interesting culture and (has) many places where you can have (more) fun than in any other place.

(Problems with auxiliary have, pronouns and comparatives)

- In Guayaquil there a lot of (traditional) typically foods.(Comparative)
- I travel(ed) to Guayaquil 2 years ago (Simple past)
- They told very nicest jocks. (Simple past and comparative)

In the Composition 1, draft 1 written by student C it can observed the draft and the mistakes mentioned previously.

Composition 1, draft 1 written by Student C

---

Guayaquil is the best city in Ecuador.

(It) It has an interesting culture and (has) It has  
many places where you can have (more)  
fun than in any other place. The city has  
undergone a great change in this last 10  
years as a result of great efforts by the  
city administrators.

The climate is hot and generally humid Citation

throughout the year with little variation  
in average temperatures. Maximum  
temperature is around 30 °C, and  
minimum temperature is around 22 °C. for  
this reason you can go to any place  
wearing sandals, shorts, blouse or t-shirt,  
while in other places, like Quito, where  
the temperature is around 13, you cannot

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wear these types of clothing because the

weather is cold.

In Guayaquil there a lot of typically traditional food foods. Typical Guayaquil cuisine includes mostly seafood dishes, such as encebollado, ceviche and so on.

The most traditional dish of (from)

Guayaquil is rice with beans and grilled beef.

I travel(ed) to Guayaquil 2 years ago I traveled to and I ate camarones reventados. It was my favorite dish because it tastes very delicious.

Guayaquil's people are very friendly.

They are polite and fun. They told very nicest jocks. If you are in trouble, they help you without asking you for anything in return. Old people talk to you about nice stories from the past or about their own experiences.

In conclusion, if you want to have fun and relax come go to Guayaquil, because it has the friendliest people, the most delicious food and the best weather.



**rw4utpl**

02:08 01/06/2011

Review punctuation

Past tense

good concluding sentences, but  
need more information in the  
conclusion

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SOURCE:<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TrOhtMw0M0q4EE62NDst9lpKYJndR3idz5upRtzsus8/edit?hl=es>

## Composition 1, Draft 2, Student C.

Student C wrote 201 words in her second draft. Student C improved paragraphs they showed accuracy in punctuation and capitalization.

Regarding content, the information was well-researched and relevant information was included.

The organization of the draft was improved. The essay was structured in a correct way; it includes an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion but the conclusion was very poor and did not support all points that refer in the composition. Writing was mostly fluid and natural sounding, and includes appropriate transition words.

Student C used grammar structures correctly with few errors such as use of plural nouns and pronouns. The mistakes of the first draft were resolved.

In composition 1, draft 2 written by student C the improvements of this composition, commentaries and online feedback can be observed.

### Composition 1, draft 2 written by Student C.

**May ESSAY1@paulina\_granda**  
17 Posteado: 17-05-2011 por writingskills | Categorías asociadas: ESSAY1  
Guayaquil is the best city in Ecuador. It has an interesting culture and many places where you can have more fun than in any other place. The city has undergone a great change in this last 10 years as a result of great efforts by the city administrators.

The climate is hot and generally humid throughout the year with little variation in average temperatures. Maximum temperature is around 30 C, and minimum temperature is around 22 c. for this reason you can go to any place wearing sandals, shorts, blouse or t-shirt.

In Guayaquil there are a lot of traditional foods. Typical Guayaquil cuisine includes

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mostly seafood dishes, such as encebollado, ceviche and so on. The most traditional dish from Guayaquil is rice with beans and grilled beef. I traveled to Guayaquil 2 years ago and I ate camarones reventados since them. It is my favorite dish because it tastes very delicious.

In conclusion, if you want to have fun and relax go to Guayaquil, because it has the friendliest people, the most delicious food and the best weather.

Leer más

Comentarios

1 Comentario ingresados en "ESSAY1@paulina\_granda"

Comentó ONLINE FEEDBACK el 01 de Junio del 2011 a 1:33

Review online

Feedback <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TrOhtMw0M0q4EE62NDst9lpKYJndR3idz5upRtzsus8/edit?hl=es>

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SOURCE: [http://blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskill2/2011/05/17/essay1paulina\\_granda/](http://blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskill2/2011/05/17/essay1paulina_granda/)

Composition 1, Draft 1, Student D.

According to the results student D has written his first composition with the following characteristics: Paragraphs showed some mistakes in punctuation and capitalization for example proper nouns were not capitalized correctly. This mistake is showed when the student D used the proper nouns “*cuenca*” and “*Chola cuencana*”.

The content written by student D in the composition included some research and mostly relevant information. About organization student D did not use citations.

The grammar mistakes in this composition were the incorrect use of definite article (the). For example use “*the*” to talk about geographical points on the globe, particular person or thing being mentioned is the best, most famous, etc. Next the referred composition is shown.

Composition 1, draft 1 written by Student D.

---

The (b)best city to visit in Ecuador best

The (b)best city to visit in Ecuador is The best Cuenca. It's near to interesting cities and there are many activities to do and places to visit. In Cuenca there are a variety of culture and customs.

First, cuenca has traditional culture. Cuenca People wear traditional clothes and talk with a different accent. It's common to see a traditional "Chola cuencana" Chola Cuenca walking on streets with a baby on their backs. Furthermore, the way they talk is the way a little different because they have a particular accent. They use a lot of slangs too. All of these things make of Cuenca an interesting city to visit.

Second, Cuenca is a traditional city with a rich cultural heritage. People can visit the museums and learn more about Cuenca. For example, the museum of "Banco Central" where people can find Central Bank arqueological objects, colonial collections and republicans, old pictures.

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In Remigio Crespo museum has an interesting collection of gold objects from Chordeleg and Cañari cultures.

Also people can visit the churches such as **E**l Sagrario church (the old cathedral), The Sagrario **T**he Nueva Concepcion Church (new cathedral), church and monastery Carmen de Asunción. Almost all built in 1550 and 1600. Those churches have an interesting colonial architecture.

Gastronomy is unique in Cuenca because of traditions and customs. In Cuenca you can eat a traditional roast cuy, motepillo that is a mix of cocked corn with eggs and species, cocked corn with cheese.

Smells, tastes, **aromas** and seasonings Aromas is a Spanish word have characterized the Cuenca **kitchen**.

For these reasons, I think that Cuenca is **the** best city to visit in Ecuador. Cuenca is the most beautiful city of this Comma multicultural country with beautiful gardens, stoned streets, clean rives and radiant domes of its churches.

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Source:[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Jxg4ctIg167bz2Hi8YDEQ9UyD\\_oGsrASiWsTiuzI3Ig/edit?hl=es](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Jxg4ctIg167bz2Hi8YDEQ9UyD_oGsrASiWsTiuzI3Ig/edit?hl=es)

## Composition 1, Draft 2, Student D.

In the second draft student D wrote the format correctly. The content incorporated relevant information, the information had logical sequence. Writing was structured correctly: It includes an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. In relation to grammar student D wrote some grammar mistakes such as use of plural forms this mistake it can be observe in the sentence: "*Furthermore, the way they talks is a little different because they have a particular accent*".

Next the referred composition is shown. In this draft can be seen the improvement and the correction that suggested by the teacher.

### Composition 1, draft 1 written by Student D

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May ESSAY1@geovanny\_jimenez

16 Posteado: 16-05-2011 por writingskills | Categorías asociadas: ESSAY1

The best city to visit in Ecuador is Cuenca. It's near interesting cities and there are many activities to do and places to visit. In Cuenca there is variety of culture and customs.

First, Cuenca has traditional culture where people wear traditional clothes and talk with a different accent. It's common to see a traditional "Chola Cuencana" walking on streets with a baby on their backs.

Furthermore, the way they talk is a little different because they have a particular accent. They use a lot of slangs. All of these things make of Cuenca an interesting city to visit.

Second, Cuenca is a traditional city with a rich cultural heritage. People can visit the museums and learn more about Cuenca. For example, the museum of Central Bank, where people can find archeological objects, colonial collections and republicans, old

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pictures. In Remigio Crespo museum has an interesting collection of gold objects of Chordeleg and Cañari cultures. Also people can visit the churches such as The Sagrario church (the old cathedral) and Nueva Concepcion.

Finally, gastronomy is other attractive that makes of Cuenca the best city to visit. Gastronomy is unique in Cuenca because of traditions and customs. In Cuenca you can eat a traditional roast cuy, motepillo that is a mix of cocked corn with eggs and species, cocked corn with cheese.

For these reasons I think that Cuenca is the best city to visit in Ecuador. Cuenca is the most beautiful city of this multicultural country with beautiful gardens, stoned streets, clean rives and radiant domes of its churches.

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Leer más

Comentarios

2 Comentarios ingresados en "ESSAY1@geovanny\_jimenez"

Comentó ONLINE FEEDBACK el 01 de Junio del 2011 a 0:31

#### REVIEW ONLINE FEEDBACK

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Jxg4ctlIg167bz2Hi8YDEQ9UyD\\_oGsrASiWsTiuZI3Ig/edit?hl=es](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Jxg4ctlIg167bz2Hi8YDEQ9UyD_oGsrASiWsTiuZI3Ig/edit?hl=es)

Comentó Rita el 25 de Julio del 2011 a 7:05

You're the one with the brains here. I'm watching for your posts.

SOURCE:[http://blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskill2/2011/05/16/essay1geovanny\\_jimenez](http://blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskill2/2011/05/16/essay1geovanny_jimenez)

Composition 1, Draft 2, Student E.

Regarding student E his first composition was written 303 words and evidenced few mistakes in capitalization. Student E did not capitalize proper nouns in the correct way; this mistake is showed when she used the proper noun "*loja*".

Regarding organization student E did not cite the information taken from other author. The theme is not supported in some paragraphs.

Concerning grammar this composition had some mistakes for example the incorrect use of possessive pronouns, adjectives, verb be and connectors. These mistakes can be observed in the sentences:

- “My” favorite city is my home. (The student omitted the possessive pronoun My)
- The city “are” small and has an amazing landscape. (The verb be was not used correctly).
- This green “area” provides our environment with peace and harmony. (Plural form of the word area is incorrect).

In his first draft the mistakes and the online feedback given by the teacher can be observed.

#### Composition 1, Draft 1, Student E

---

The best city to visit in Ecuador.

(My) favorite city is my home (L)loja. The environment, art, music, nature and people are the true essence of Loja.

They city are small and has an amazing landscape. We can see natural reserves, such as National Park “Podocarpus”, or the botanical garden “Reinaldo Espinoza”.

These green area provide our environment areas with peace and harmony. The fauna and flora here is outstanding. There also There

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Loja  
The composition has not introduction or not is clear the points to support the thesis statement.

is

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amusement parks, town squares and museums. Loja is essentially a cultural city covered of areas from music to painting, to poetry to theater. Loja is considered the musical capital of Ecuador .The musical movement here is inspiring, there are great musicians and bands. Epic composer of Ecuador were born and raised here, geniuses like Salvador Bustamante Ceil, (who) composed the music of our national anthem, or Segundo Cueva Celi, the amazing violinist. Even folklore bands like Pueblo Nuevo have members from Loja. (space)

Finally, the people play an important role in the essence of the city.

The crime rate is very low and you can feel safe in the streets. My family and friends mean a lot of to me.

I have been living my whole life in Loja and always my friends or teachers helped me in some way to improve and be better person.(space)

In conclusion, we can tell Loja is an amazing city, maybe Loja is not a metropolis like Paris or New York, but in its

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This paragrah does not have relation with the thesis stament.

simplicity, is where Loja stands out.



READING WRITING

00:10 12/06/2011

Review spaces.

Citation, Transitions words.

SOURCE:[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JeA6Ek8uFCSXd0suXwZT\\_8SiZp\\_rT1CnqWaUUj2MUS8/edit?pli=1&hl=es](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JeA6Ek8uFCSXd0suXwZT_8SiZp_rT1CnqWaUUj2MUS8/edit?pli=1&hl=es)

Composition 1, Draft 2, Student E

In his second draft the format was better. The capitalization rules were taken into consideration. The mistake in the proper noun "*loja*" was resolved.

Regarding organization, student E did not cite the information taken from other author this mistake continued in the draft. Some ideas were supported with extra information but continued with problems of logical sequence.

Concerning content the draft included some research and few relevant information about the topic.

Regarding organization the second draft did not have a clear and logical sequence. In both drafts it is possible observed the inadequate transitions of ideas.

Student E continued with the same grammar mistakes that in his first draft. In this particular case the student did not make the corrections suggest by the teacher.

Following is showed the composition.

Composition 1, draft 2 written by Student E.

May **ESSAY1@Daniel Alejandro Ojeda Riascos**

17 Posteado: 17-05-2011 por writingskills | Categorías asociadas: ESSAY1

My favorite city is Loja. The environment, art, nature and people are the true essence of Loja. This city is small and has an amazing landscape.

We can see natural reserves, such as National Park "Podocarpus", or the botanical garden "Reynaldo Espinoza". These green areas provide our environment with

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peace and harmony. The fauna and flora here is outstanding. There also amusement parks, town squares and museums. Loja is essentially a cultural city covering of areas from music to painting, from poetry to theater.

People play an important role in the essence of the city. The crime rate is very low and you can feel safe in the streets.

In conclusion, we can tell that Loja is an amazing city; maybe Loja is not a metropolis like Paris or New York, but in its simplicity Loja stands out.

Leer más

Comentarios

2 Comentarios ingresados en "ESSAY1@Daniel Alejandro Ojeda Riascos"  
Comentó ONLINE FEEDBACK el 11 de Junio del 2011 a 23:29

Review your online feedback

Comment Kalinin el 26 de Julio del 2011 a 10:55

Stay with this guys, you're helping a lot of people.

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SOURCE: <http://blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskill2/2011/05/30/essay3daniel-alejandro-ojeda-riascos/>

Composition 1, draft 1 written by Student F.

Student F wrote the composition with the topic “The best city to visit in Ecuador”. Student F wrote 519 words composition in which can observe some mistakes in the format: Paragraphs showed some mistakes in punctuation and capitalization for example the student did not capitalize proper nouns in correct way. In the composition the first letter of the proper noun Zamora was written with small z.

Regarding organization the structure of the thesis statement is not supported in all paragraphs. Student F did not cite the information taken from other author.

Concerning grammar this composition had some mistakes for example the incorrect use of pronouns, adjectives connectors, prepositions and verb tenses. Next the composition can be observed.

Composition 1, draft 2 written by Student F.

---

The best **Ecuadorian** city to visit—**in** Title

**Ecuador** is Zamora because it is the safest and cleanest city in the country. **Also,** it has a lot of tourist places to visit and the people are friendly.

**zamora** is the safest and cleanest city **Zamora**

because you can stay out at night and

nothing happens to you, policemen are in the streets and there are not a lot of thieves. Also it's very clean, and unlike cities **such** as Quito or Guayaquil, in

**zamora** you are not going to find trash in **Zamora**

the streets or in the river. In addition, the

air in **zamora** is **clean** and pure, because **Zamora** there is not much pollution.

Also **zamora** is the city that has many **Zamora**

touristic places **For** example El Arenal; **The Arenal**

**This** place is very important when you are

going to plan your vacations because it is

very comfortable and has a **beauty** scene

where you can see the vegetation and

some orchids. Besides the delicious food

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that you can eat in this place like frog's haunches, ant's ass cake, "miel con quesillo" "estofado de pollo criollo" etc., you will find large green spaces for long walks or if you prefer you can ride a horse to appreciate better the green wealth that exists in the area.

**El** Arenal is not the only place that you can visit. There are a lot of places that you can go to have a good time like: **El** The Malecon, the Central Park, Podocarpus Park and so on.

**So** you do not have to worry about what you are you going to do? Or where you are going to stay Because Zamora has a lot of places to go, and you and your family are going to enjoy yourself in this special city.

**Moreover** People in Zamora are very kind, Friendly and generous. ~~Maybe you are asking why I am saying that. Well I am going to tell you something that happens to me:~~ When **I go** for the first time to I went Zamora to visit my father I did not know how to arrive to the **Migration Station** **Because** I was thinking about surprise~~(ing)~~ because /surprising my father; ~~with my presence so~~ I did not

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tell him that I was going to visit him, and suddenly a friendly woman asked me where I wanted to go so I told her my situation and she took me to the place that I wanted(to go), and I could surprise my father. ~~So for this reason I said that~~ people in Zamora are friendly, because if you have a problem they will help you no matter what they are doing at that moment; these people have a big heart.

In conclusion, zamora is the most beautiful and safest city in Ecuador, so visit it! You will realize that this city has all the things that you need to enjoy yourself. (and friendly people too) So don't waste your time thinking about where you are going to go for vacations, pick up your clothes quickly and come to Zamora!!

Zamora



rw4utpl

23:55 05/06/2011

add more introduction.  
Great conclusion just ,make sure  
to restate the thesis statement in  
the conclusion.

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SOURCE:<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EZBTImUCNfRrGMk4VzCpHyfKBBsMxxvVzp9iHFnY/edit?hl=es>

Composition 1, draft 2, Student F.

In the second draft the format was correct. It is seen that student has taken account the online feedback given by his teacher.

Regarding content the draft included some relevant information about the topic. The paragraphs were not totally related to the thesis statement. Student F wrote some original ideas but was no able to state supporting sentences. Student F used most of the grammar in the correct way but only made the corrections that her teacher suggested in the online feedback.

Next the second draft can be observed.

Composition 1, draft 2 written by Student F.

**May 17 ESSAY1@Jessika Mariuxi Granda Velez**  
Posteado: 17-05-2011 por writingskills | Categorías asociadas: ESSAY1

The best Ecuadorian city to visit in Ecuador is Zamora because it is the safest and cleanest city in the country. It has a lot of tourist places to visit and the people are friendly. Zamora is the safest and cleanest city because you can stay out at night and nothing happens to you, the police are in the streets and there are not a lot of thieves. Also it's very clean, unlike cities such as Quito or Guayaquil, in Zamora you are not going to find trash in the streets or in the river. In addition, the air in Zamora is clean and pure, because there is not much pollution.

Also Zamora is the city that has many interesting places For example The Arenal; this place is very important when you plan your vacations because it is very comfortable and has a beauty scene where you can see the vegetation and some orchids. Besides the delicious food that you can eat in this place like frog's haunches, ant's ass cake, "miel con quesillo" , "estofado de pollo criollo" etc, you will find large green spaces for long walks or if you prefer you can ride a horse to appreciate better the green wealth that exists in the area.

The Arenal is not the only place that you can visit. There are a lot of places that you can go to have a good time like: The Malecon, the Central Park, Podocarpus Park and so on. Zamora has a lot of places to go, and you and your family are going to

enjoy yourself in this special city.

Moreover People in Zamora are very kind, Friendly and generous. Maybe you are asking why I am saying that. Well I am going to tell you something that happened to me: When I went for the first time to Zamora to visit my father I did not know how to arrive to the bus Station Because I was thinking on surprising my father; with my presence so I did not tell him that I was going to visit him, and suddenly a friendly woman asked me where I wanted to go so I told her my situation and she took me to the place that I wanted to go, and I could surprise my father.

I saw that people in Zamora are friendly, because if you have a problem they will help you no matter what they are doing at that moment; these people have a big heart.

In conclusion, Zamora is the most beautiful and safest city in Ecuador, so visit it! You will realize that this city has all the things that you need to enjoy yourself. So don't waste your time thinking about where you are going to go for vacations, pick up your clothes quickly and come to Zamora.

Leer más

Comentarios

1 Comentario ingresados en "ESSAY1@Jessika Mariuxi Granda Vélez"

Comentó ONLINE FEEDBACK el 06 de Junio del 2011 a 0:07

Please review the online Feedback

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EZBTI-msUCNfRrGMk4VzCpHyfKBBsMxxvVzp9iHFnY/edit?hl=es>

SOURCE: <http://blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskill2/2011/05/17/essay1jessika-mariuxi-granda-velez/>

After finishing the first composition, all the students in this research study wrote second composition with the topic "*Importance of learning English*"; as in the first composition students used Google Docs and UTPL Blogs platform.

The results of the second composition are shown in table 10, where it is observed some improvement between draft 1 and 2. Table 10 shows that in the first draft students A, B, C and D had some problems in the format respect punctuation and capitalization for example they did not use a period at the end of a sentence. Another mistake was the incorrect use of commas after each item in a series of at least three items.

In the second draft students A, B, C and D improved the format in their compositions. They used the capitalization and orthographic rules correctly. The improvement of these aspects we can observe on <http://blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskill2/category/essay2/> section commentaries online feedback.

Student E was the student who had more problems in this composition. Student E did not pay attention in the use of capitalization rules. The mistake referent to capitalization was the inadequate capitalization of places or geographical position “*europe*”, “*North america*”. In the second draft these mistakes continued. He made some corrections but he did not show a real improvement.

Another especial case was student F who, in her first composition had problems with the paragraphs, punctuation and capitalization for example she did not capitalize proper nouns correctly. This mistake is showed, in the use of the proper nouns “*united kingdom*” and “*china*”.

Regarding content in the first and second drafts the students A, B, C and D included some research and mostly relevant information.

About organization the students A, B, C and D showed the same organization: Students wrote the information in logical sequence. Writing was structured correctly:

It included an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Writing included some appropriate transition words but the information was not cited.

Regarding organization student E had some mistakes such as: Writing was structured incorrectly and it was missing a conclusion. Writing lacked fluidity and read like a translation from the native language. Few appropriate transition words were used. Students did not present any original ideas. The information was not cited.

Student F had some mistakes in the organization of his first draft because the writing was not structured correctly: It is missing a conclusion. Writing lacked fluidity and read like a translation from the native language. Few appropriate transition words were used. Student F did not present any original ideas and did not use the correct format to cite the information.

Regarding grammar students A, B, C, D in the first draft used of the grammar patterns correctly.

Student E used some of the grammar points correctly. Common grammar mistakes were the use of articles, prepositions, gerunds, and transition words. Next the compositions can be observed.

Composition 2, draft 1 written by Student E.

---

Importance of Learning English

I dare to recognize that English is the “in my opinion, English has become the universal language so far. universal language in our modern day

The opportunities and advantages for society”  
mastering the language are huge. More 1/6

More than  
of earth’s population speaks English, so

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we can figure out importance. (space)

From learning English in our education clearly increase, we have opportunities such as scholarships, and eventually we could apply for international programs for Master degrees or PhD.

Learning English is indispensable for improving your knowledge and getting a higher degree.

(space)

English opens many doors around the world in terms of jobs opportunities. We can get a better job, or even work in a foreign country, but we have to master the language.

In any branch of science, like physics, engineering, electronics or biological areas, high level of English provides us with many tools for understanding manuals, protocols or using machinery and technology.

The index the internet users increased considerably last decade, and it proves the importance of the language in the cyber society. (space)

From learning English, are educational opportunities expanding and we can eventually apply for scholarships, international programs for Masters degrees or PhD's.

This language

a foreign country first we

considerably in the last decade and it proves to be an important language in our social

---

universal language because it is spoken in  
the world. We have ~~got~~ some advantages across the world  
to travel to europe or North Europe North America  
america.(space)

All us have reasons to learn the languages, All of us

out of necessity or just for fun. For  
example, if you know English you can  
understand the meaning of the lyrics of  
your favorite band or singer.(space)

In conclusion, the English has been  
growing in importance over time and its  
importance today is obvious. It's in our  
hands to take advantages of this or not and  
we can choose well.

---

SOURCE:<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Z7VYd2AgncuzGPD84t51JXmrYqbjDctxYZtsVGuEc/edit?hl=es>

Composition 2, draft 2 written by Student E

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**May ESSAY2@Daniel Alejandro Ojeda Riascos**  
**28 Posteado: 28-05-2011 por writingskills | Categorías asociadas: ESSAY2**

In my opinion, English has become the universal language in our modern day society. The opportunities and advantages for mastering the language are huge. More than 1/6 of earth's population speaks English, so we can see its importance. From learning English, are educational opportunities expanding and we can eventually apply for scholarships, international programs for Masters degrees or PhD's. Learning this language is indispensable to improving your knowledge and

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achievement a higher degree.

English opens many doors around the world in terms of job opportunities .We can get a better job, or even work in foreign country, but we have to master the language. In any branch of science, like physics, engineering, electronics or biological areas, high level of English provides us with many tools for understanding manuals, protocols or using machinery and technology.

The index the internet users increased considerably in last decade and it proves to be an important language in our social networking. English is a universal language because it is spoken across of world. We have got some advantages to travel to Europe or North America.

All of us have reasons to learn the languages, out necessity or just for fun. For example, if you know English you can understand the meaning of the lyrics of your favorite band or singer.

In conclusion, English has been growing in importance over time and its importance today is obvious. It is in our hands to take advantages of this or not and we have the choice.

Leer más

Comentarios

1 Comentario ingresados en "ESSAY2@Daniel Alejandro Ojeda Riascos"

Comentó ONLINE FEEDBACK el 13 de Junio del 2011 a 1:00

PLEASE REVIEW YOUR ONLINE FEEDBACK.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Z7-jVYd2AgncuzGPD84t51JXmrYqbjDctxYZtsVGuEc/edit?hl=es>

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SOURCE: <http://blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskill2/2011/05/28/essay2daniel-alejandro-ojeda-riascos/>

Composition 2, draft 1 written by Student F.

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### The importance of English

English is a very important language in all areas of the life; for example in education, work, personal and social things, and for travel.

First of all, English is very important in education, because it helps you to have good opportunities to study abroad. If you study English, and speak it fluently, you can get a scholarship. A scholarship will help you a lot because besides the major that you already have, you can study another one, but in another country. In a Statistic that I found (on) in the Internet about travel abroad, it mentioned that about 50% of young people travel abroad because they get a scholarship because they knew English. Moreover; nowadays English is used in almost all areas of knowledge and human development. Also, today the majority of the textbooks come in English, so it's important to learn this language. (According to a wikipedia) A statistic from www.wikipedia/englishbooks/ said that the 97% of the books have something in English, so as we can see that at this time we have to learn English because it is not an option, is an obligation.

Secondly, English is the language of the century; it

Offers you a chance  
Have travelled abroad for  
scholarship

I think ‘study’ or ‘research’ might sound better.

Today the majority of textbooks are published in English

It is, NEVER abbreviate ‘it is’ to ‘it’s’ in an essay, it’s very

colloquial

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helps people who know it by opening doors to find good places where they can work. The latest several last several years, people who know English get better jobs, but why? It is because people that have important companies like HP, LG, Canon, Apple etc. want to hire people who are bilingual, or people who know a lot of languages, because these companies work with people from other countries, so it's important for them to hire people that make that these companies improve every day.

In addition, English helps us in our daily life, because English is everywhere and we need it to express ourselves. Humans need to communicate with other people and make friends (T) thus, if we want to have foreign friends, we need to speak English in order to talk with them. Also, if we have friends from other countries we can learn about their culture.

Finally, English is not only a language; it's the universal language, so it helps us to travel around the world, because we can visit other countries like the USA, china, United kingdom and so on, When we travel we learn about the traditions of the country that we are visiting so it is important to learn English to talk to the people and to understand what they are saying. In conclusion, English is very important

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nowadays in all the aspects of our lives, so what are you waiting for? If you do not know English, learn it and you will realize that English is the language that opens doors to (for) you!



## READING WRITING

23:38 29 de ene

Review the title.

Capitalization.

Organization of composition.

Review APA format.

SOURCE:[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RrH\\_BP81hDrfYjc2lOKiHAY8JhENtIiIRUOoDCOlSoU/edit?hl=es](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RrH_BP81hDrfYjc2lOKiHAY8JhENtIiIRUOoDCOlSoU/edit?hl=es)

Composition 1, draft 2 written by Student F.

May 28 **ESSAY2@Jessika Mariuxi Granda Velez**

Posteado: 28-05-2011 por writingskills | Categorías asociadas: ESSAY2

The importance of learning English.

English is a very important language in all areas of life; for example in education, work, personal and social things, and for travel.

First of all, English is very important in education, because it offers you a chance to study abroad. If you study English, and speak it fluently, you can get a scholarship. A scholarship will help you a lot because besides the major that you already have, you can study another one, but in other country. In a statistic that I found on the Internet about travel abroad, it mentioned that about 50% of young people travel abroad because they get a scholarship because they knew English. Moreover; nowadays English is used in almost all areas of knowledge and human development. Also, today the majority of textbooks are published in English, so it is important to know this language.

According to Wikipedia the 97% of the books have something in English, so as we can see that at this time we have to learn English because it is not an option, it is requirement. Secondly, English is the language of the century; it helps people who know it by opening doors to find good places where they can work. The last several years, people who know English get better jobs, but why? It is because people that

have important companies like HP, LG, Canon, Apple etc. want to hire people who are bilingual, or people who know a lot of languages, because these companies work with people from other countries, so it's important for them to hire people that make that these companies improve every day. In addition, English helps us in our daily life, because English is everywhere and we need it to express ourselves. Humans need to communicate with other people and make friends. Thus, if we want to have foreign friends, we need to speak English in order to talk with them. Also, if we have friends from other countries we can learn about their culture.

Finally, English is not only a language; it's the universal language, so it helps us to travel around the world, because we can visit other countries like the USA, China and United Kingdom.

In conclusion, English is very important nowadays in all the aspects of our lives, so what are you waiting for? If you do not know English learn it and you will realize that English is the language that opens doors for you!

Leer más

Comentarios

1 Comentario ingresados en "ESSAY2@Jessika Mariuxi Granda Vélez"  
Comentó ONLINE FEEDBACK el 06 de Junio del 2011 a 0:33

SOURCE: <http://blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskill2/2011/05/28/essay2jessika-mariuxi-granda-velez/>

In the second draft, the students that participated in this study improved grammar especially the students E and F; they taken into account the teacher observation and made the corrections.

The online feedback and the information published in the blog helped to students to improve grammar because students had the opportunity to check grammar rules and suggestions given in order to improve their composition.

In the final part of this research study the students wrote a third composition about the topic "*The best city to live in Ecuador*". The process of previous composition was applied. They used Google Docs and the UTPL Blogs platform for writing the compositions.

The results of the third composition are showed in table 11, where it is observe the improvement between draft first and second.

According to table 11, in the first draft students A, D and E had some problems in the format. Students A, D and E did not use a period at the end of sentence. These students did not consider rules of using commas.

In the second draft these students improved the format, the paragraphs showed accuracy in punctuation and capitalization.

In the first draft student B did not show accuracy in punctuation and capitalization. Student B did not capitalize proper nouns in correct way.

In the second draft this student improved the punctuation and capitalization was better at using commas and capital letters, it can be seen that the online feedback was taken into account for improving the second draft.

The title of composition that student C wrote was close to perfect and the paragraphs showed generally accuracy in punctuation and capitalization. Student C improved the punctuation and capitalization because the observations on online feedback were taken into consideration.

Student F made many mistakes in his third composition; the paragraphs were not separate and showed some mistakes in punctuation and capitalization such as incorrect used of the period at the end of sentences and the incorrect use of commas and semicolons.

Regarding content students A, B, C, D and E has written information including some research and mostly relevant information. In the second draft these students had the same content. The content did not show improvement; the content of the essay was kept.

Student F in first draft included very little research and some information was not relevant. In the second draft there was no improvement, the student only made some corrections but did not produce a real change in his composition.

Regarding organization the students A, B, C, D and E showed the same organization: Students wrote the information in logical sequence. Writing was structured correctly: It included an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Writing was mostly fluid and natural sounding, and included some appropriate transition words. The information was not cited. In the second draft student A, B, C, D and E had the same organization.

On the other hand student F included some research and mostly relevant information. Writing was structured incorrectly: it missed a conclusion. Writing lacks fluidity and reads like a translation from the native language. Few appropriate transition words were used. The information was not cited. Student F did not present any original ideas; he only made the corrections suggested by the teacher.

Regarding grammar students A, B, C, D and E in the first draft used most of the grammar patterns correctly. The common mistakes were: The incorrect use of articles, preposition, and gerunds.

Concerning grammar, student F in his first draft shows problems with the use of possessive pronouns and gerunds in the two drafts.

Student F did not actually improve his second draft he still has some mistakes. It is clearly visible that he just corrected the parts where the teacher showed the mistakes. Next the referred composition is showed.

Composition 3, draft 1 written by Student F.

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### THE BEST CITY TO LIVE IN ECUADOR.

#### TITLE: The best Ecuadorian city to live

The best Ecuadorian city to live is Loja. (It) it has a It lot of places where you can go on weekends. Also the food is delicious. Additionally , in Loja there are a lot of good high schools and universities that give us a good education.(spaces)

First the best places to visit in Loja is vilcabamba Vilcabamba this attractive valley is located 40 minutes south of Loja city and has become a prime destination for tourists and people looking to have fun. Here the people play soccer, basketball and other sports.(spaces)

Loja has delicious food. You can eat repe, cecina, tamal and tortillas. These are some of the traditional dishes from Loja. As a result, most visitors to Loja are thrilled to discover the rest of Loja is the ecuador, For instance, last month I went out Ecuador with my friends.(spaces)

Loja has a good weather. It has Andean climate, generally warn during the days and colder and

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often wetter at night. The average temperature is 16

c in June and July brings an eastern drizzle.(spaces)

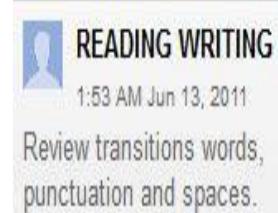
Loja's educational system is good. There are many varieties of high schools and universities. They have quite different and qualities of education.(spaces)

(In conclusion) if you have decided yet where you where you want to live, do not worry because Loja is the best choice that you can make. Loja has a lot of relaxing places with nice culture and if you have children, you help them a have goof future because Loja has a good education system.

Also, you can test the best traditional food that you ever imagined. Come to Loja and have fun.

Change the word qualities.

yet to decide where you want to live, do not worry because Loja is the best choice for you. You are providing a good future for them because of it is educational system.



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SOURCE:[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1t4MyQuLaTd6z5X1kyGi7eZ1cGM1zjQsvwHzNvJoV4/edit?hl=en\\_US](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1t4MyQuLaTd6z5X1kyGi7eZ1cGM1zjQsvwHzNvJoV4/edit?hl=en_US)

Composition 3, draft 2 written by Student F.

May ESSAY3@paulina\_granda

30 Posteado: 30-05-2011 por writingskills | Categorías asociadas: ESSAY3

The best city to live in Ecuador.

The best Ecuadorian city to live is Loja. It has a lot of places where you can go on weekends. Also the food is delicious. Additionally in Loja there are a lot of good high schools and universities that give us a good education.

First the best place to visit in Loja is Vilcabamba this attractive valley is located 40 minutes south of Loja city and has become a prime destination for tourists and people looking to have fun. Here the people play soccer, basketball and other sports.

Loja has delicious food. You can eat repe, cecina, tamal and tortillas. These are some of the traditional dishes from Loja. As a result, most visitors to Loja are thrilled to discover the rest of the Ecuador, For instance, last month I went out with my friends. Loja has a good weather. It has Andean climate, generally warn during the days and colder and often wetter at night. The average temperature is 16 c in June and July brings an eastern drizzle.

Loja educational system is good. There are many varieties of high schools and universities. They have quite different and qualities of education.

In conclusion if you have decided yet to decide where you want to live, do not worry because Loja is the best choice for you. Loja has a lot of relaxing places with nice culture and if you have children, you are providing a good future for them because of it is educational system.

Leer más

Comentarios

1 Comentario ingresados en "ESSAY3@paulina\_granda"

Comentó ONLINE FEEDBACK el 13 de Junio del 2011 a 2:04

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1t4MyQuLaTd6-Zz5X1kyGi7eZ1cGM1zjQsvwHzNvJoV4/edit?hl=en\\_US](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1t4MyQuLaTd6-Zz5X1kyGi7eZ1cGM1zjQsvwHzNvJoV4/edit?hl=en_US)

SOURCE: [http://blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskill2/2011/05/30/essay3paulina\\_granda/](http://blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskill2/2011/05/30/essay3paulina_granda/)

This section includes a numerical comparison of different compositions written by student that participate in this research study. This comparison demonstrates the improvement of the compositions between the two drafts in each one of the compositions.

According to table 9 the students in the first draft get a score of 4,07 points in contrast with the second draft in which students got 4,57 showing that there was an improvement of 0,5 in the score. The table shows that there was some improvement in the parameters: Format and grammar patters.

Table 10 shows that students in the first draft had a score of 3,8 points in contrast with the second in which students got 4,58 showing that there was an improvement of 0,78 in the score. This table shows an improvement in the parameters: Format, content and grammar patters.

Table 11 shows the general result of the three compositions. Students in the first draft had a score of 3,96 points in contrast with the second draft with a score of 4,57 showing that there was an improvement of 0,97 in the score. This table shows an improvement in the parameters: Format, content and grammar patters. All the result of tree composition is summarized in table 12.

## Conclusions

At the end of this research study, I can conclude the following:

- Blogs as supplementary material did not help EFL students at UTPL to improve their writing skills, it is seen that compositions are presented in the same way; in the first draft, students did not correct mistakes or expand the final version of their compositions as their teacher expected them to do.
- Regarding the use of discussion boards, this research cannot provide conclusive evidence that the use of discussion boards improved or not the writing skills of the participants in this study because the students used this tool in a single occasion to answer the question posted by their teacher besides that instance, the students did not create any thread on their own.
- Students enrolled in reading and writing IV felt motivated with the use of blogs as supplementary material, there were a lot of interactions in the blog created for this study.
- The common mistakes by students that participated in this research study in their first composition were: The incorrect organization of composition, incorrect use of gerunds, transition words, articles punctuation in contrast with the second drafts where the format and grammar had improvement.
- The online feedback provided by the teacher did not help to improve the writing skills of the EFL students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV; this can be attested by the lack of any substantial improvement in the final version of their compositions when compared with their corresponding drafts.

## Recommendations

- It is recommended the develop projects which include the use of technological tools to improve writing skills.
- EFL teachers and students at UTPL should be trained in the correct use of electronic communication tools such as blogs, discussion boards to improve the English Skills and develop interactive classes.
- In the syllabus of EFL program at UTPL it should consider the use and implementation of blogs and discussion boards as supplementary material in order to improve the technological and English skills of their students because the process of teaching and learning English is better with the support of the electronic communication tools.

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## Annexes



Dear students this survey has the purpose to know about the use of blogs, discussion boards and online feedback in the process to help EFL students to improve your writing skills.

**1.** Which courses make you feel more motivated to learn writing?

Writing courses in which you do not use blogs discussion boards and online feedback.

Writing courses in which you can use blogs discussion boards and online feedback.

Why?

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**2.** Blogs are designed to improve the students learning experience in a variety of ways. Please select one or more the following statements about the advantages of use blogs your learning experiences to improve your writing skills.

Blogs help to interact with the teacher.

Blogs help to get feedback from the teacher immediately.

Blogs help to solve doubts about how to write.

Blogs make it easier to work with other students and produce collaborative learning.

Blogs help to produce multiple drafts.

**3.** A discussion board is an asynchronous communication tool that allows one individual to post a comment or question online in order to interact with other people. Please select one or more the following statements about the advantages of use discussion boards in your learning experiences to improve writing skills.

Discussion boards help to interact with my classmates and share ideas about writing.

Discussion boards facilitate writing activities with the information about how to write and the interactive participation.

Discussion boards motivate to improve my writing skills.

**4. How blogs and discussion boards help to improve your writing skills?**

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**5. How online feedback helps to improve your writing skills?**

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**6. Online feedback helps to improve your writing skill. Choose what factors improved in your writing skills with this resource.**

Grammar

Punctuation

Motivation

Interaction with my teacher and classmates

**7. Your teacher encouraged students' to participate and use new technologies such as blogs and discussion boards to improve your writing skills.**

Always

Mostly

Somewhat

Not at all

Thanks

## RUBRIC WRITING SKILLS

Name: STUDENT A (FIRST DRAFT)      Title: The best city to visit in Ecuador

### CRITERIA

	0-1	2-3	4	5	Score
FORMAT	Don't write the title in correct form.	The title has some mistakes.	The title is close to perfect.	The title has the correct format.	
	The paragraphs do not have spaces.	The paragraphs have few spaces.	The paragraphs have some spaces.	The paragraphs have correct spaces.	
	The paragraphs do not show accuracy in punctuation and capitalization.	The paragraphs show some mistakes in punctuation and capitalization.	The paragraphs show generally accuracy in punctuation and capitalization.	The paragraphs show accuracy in punctuation and capitalization.	
CONTENT	Information includes no research. Students do not include any relevant information.	Information includes very little research and some information isn't relevant.	Information includes some research and mostly relevant information.	Information is well-researched and includes only relevant information.	
ORGANIZATION	Sequence of information is difficult to follow.	Reader has difficulty following work because student jumps around.	Student presents information in logical sequence which reader can follow.	Information in logical, interesting sequence which reader can follow.	
	Writing is structured	Writing is structured	Writing is structured		

	incorrectly: it is missing an introduction and conclusion. Writing lacks fluidity and reads like a translation from the native language. No appropriate transition words are used.	incorrectly: it is missing an introduction and/or a conclusion. Writing lacks fluidity and reads like a translation from the native language. Few appropriate transition words are used.	correctly: it includes an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Writing is mostly fluid and natural sounding, and includes some appropriate transition words.	Writing is structured correctly: it includes an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Writing is fluid and natural sounding, and includes
	Students copy exactly from websites with no paraphrasing or citations.	There are no citations, or citations are not correct (if necessary).	cited, but with errors. Students present some original ideas.	If necessary, information is sounding, and includes appropriate transition words
		Students do not present any original ideas.		Information is cited properly (if necessary). Students are creative and present original ideas
GRAMMAR	Students use little to no grammar points correctly and make many errors, making it difficult to understand.	Students use some of the grammar points correctly, but make many errors.	Students use most of the grammar points correctly with very few errors	Students use all grammar points correctly with no errors.
TOTAL				

AUTHOR: Pablo Alejandro Quezada Sarmiento.

SOURCES: EFL students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV at on- site system at UTPT.

## RUBRIC WRITING SKILLS

Name: STUDENT A (SECOND DRAFT) Title: The best city to visit in Ecuador

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### CRITERIA

	0-1	2-3	4	5	Score
FORMAT	Don't write the title in correct form.	The title has some mistakes.	The title is close to perfect.	The title has the correct format.	
	The paragraphs do not have spaces.	The paragraphs have few spaces.	The paragraphs have some spaces.	The paragraphs have correct	
	The paragraphs do not show accuracy in punctuation and capitalization.	The paragraphs show some mistakes in punctuation and capitalization.	The paragraphs show generally accuracy in punctuation and capitalization.	The paragraphs show accuracy in punctuation and capitalization.	
CONTENT	Information includes no research. Students do not include any relevant information.	Information includes very little research and some information isn't relevant.	Information includes some research and mostly relevant information.	Information is well-researched and includes only relevant information.	
ORGANIZATION	Sequence of information is difficult to follow.	Reader has difficulty following work because student jumps around.	Student presents information in logical sequence which reader can follow	Information in logical, interesting sequence which reader can follow.	
	Writing is structured	Writing is structured	Writing is structured	Writing is structured	

---

	incorrectly: it is missing an introduction and conclusion. Writing lacks fluidity and reads like a translation from the native language. No appropriate transition words are used.	incorrectly: it is missing an introduction and/or a conclusion. Writing lacks fluidity and reads like a translation from the native language. Few appropriate transition words are used.	correctly: it includes an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Writing is mostly fluid and natural sounding, and includes some appropriate transition words.	Writing is structured correctly: it includes an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Writing is fluid and natural
	Students copy exactly from websites with no paraphrasing or citations.	There are no citations, or citations are not correct (if necessary). Students do not present any original ideas.	cited, but with errors. Students present some original ideas.	sounding, and includes appropriate transition words
				Information is cited properly (if necessary).
GRAMMAR	Students use little to no grammar points correctly and make many errors, making it difficult to understand.	Students use some of the grammar points correctly, but make many errors.	Students use most of the grammar points correctly with very few errors	Students are creative and present original ideas
TOTAL				

AUTHOR: Pablo Alejandro Quezada Sarmiento.

SOURCES: EFL students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV at on- site system at UTPL

## DISSCUSION BOARDS RUBRIC

Category	Excellent (3)	Satisfactory (2)	Requires further effort (1)
Quality of Information	Information clearly relates to the main topic.	Contributions are thoughtful and relevant to the discussion.	Information clearly relates to the main topic.
Participation	Responds to the instructors and other members of the online community.	Responds to other members of the online community.	Responds to the instructor only.
	Encourages and facilitates interaction among members of the online community.		
Language	Professional vocabulary and writing style are used consistently throughout the discussion.	Professional vocabulary and writing style are used frequently throughout the discussion.	Professional vocabulary and writing style are occasionally used.
Total			

AUTHOR: Pablo Alejandro Quezada Sarmiento.

SOURCES: EFL students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV at on- site system at UTPL

## Discussion Boards

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	DISSCUSION BOARDS		
	VARIABLES	SCORE	FREQUENCY OF INTERACTION
Students			
Student A	Quality of Information Participation Language		
Student B	Quality of Information Participation Language		
Student C	Quality of Information Participation Language		
Student D	Quality of Information Participation Language		
Student F	Quality of Information Participation Language		

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AUTHOR: Pablo Alejandro Quezada Sarmiento.

SOURCES: EFL students enrolled in Reading and Writing IV at on- site system at UTPL

## Blog 1

<http://blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskills/>

The screenshot shows a Firefox browser window displaying a blog post. The URL in the address bar is [blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskills/](http://blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskills/). The page header includes the logo of the Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja (UTPL) and a banner featuring several globe icons. The main content area displays a post titled "Steps for Writing an Essay in English" dated May 04, 2011. The sidebar on the left contains a calendar for June 2012, links to "Web Links" (SPEAKEASY, UTPL, WordPress.com), and a "Recent Posts" section. The right sidebar contains links for "STUDENT WRITING" (15 posts), "Web Links" (SPEAKEASY, UTPL, WordPress.com), and "Meta" (Log in, Valid XHTML, XFN, WordPress). The bottom of the screen shows the Windows taskbar with various application icons.

## Blog 2

<http://blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskill2/>

The screenshot shows a Firefox browser window with the address bar displaying 'writingskill' and the URL 'blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskill2/'. The page header features the logo of 'UNIVERSIDAD TÉCNICA PARTICULAR DE LOJA' and the text 'La Universidad Católica de Loja'. The main content area displays a blog post titled 'ESSAY3 @yulia\_coronel' posted on May 31, 2011. The post discusses why Loja is the best city to live in Ecuador, mentioning its quiet atmosphere, safety, and good education level. It also highlights the city's historical and cultural significance. The sidebar includes links to categories like ESSAY1, ESSAY2, ESSAY3, and General, as well as archives for Mayo de 2011 and Abril de 2011. On the right side, there are sections for 'Eventos' and 'Enlaces' (links) to WordPress.com and WordPress.org. The bottom status bar shows the date and time as 08/06/2012 at 0:31.

## Discussion Board

<http://blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskill2/disscusion-board/>

The screenshot shows a Firefox browser window with the address bar containing 'blogs.utpl.edu.ec/writingskill2/disscusion-board/'. The main content area displays the 'UNIVERSIDAD TÉCNICA PARTICULAR DE LOJA' website. A navigation menu at the top includes 'INICIO', 'FEEDBACK', 'RUBRIC', 'VIDEOS', 'DISSCUTION BOARD', and a search bar. The 'DISSCUTION BOARD' section shows a post from 'Jun 1' titled 'Posteado: 01-06-2011 por writingskills | Categorías asociadas: General'. The post content asks for comments on the best city to live in Ecuador. Below the post, there are two comments: one from '@Jessica\_Somerville' and another from '@yulia\_coronel'. On the right side of the page, there are sidebar sections for 'Eventos', 'Enlaces' (with links to WordPress.com and WordPress.org), and 'Meta' (with links to Iniciar sesión, Valid XHTML, XFN, and WordPress). The bottom status bar of the browser shows the date '08/06/2012' and time '03:41'.

The screenshot shows a comment section on the 'writingskill' blog. It displays two comments: one from '@Daniel Alejandro Ojeda Riascos' dated '27 de Junio del 2011 a 18:27' and another from 'Indian' dated '26 de Julio del 2011 a 9:28'. Both comments express positive opinions about Loja. Below the comments is a 'Ingresar un comentario' form with fields for Nombre, Email, URL, and Comentario, along with an 'ingresar' button. At the bottom of the page, there is footer information including the address 'San Cayetano Alto - Loja Ecuador • Apartado postal: 11-01-608 • PBX: (593-7) 2570-275 • FAX: (593-7) 2584-893', a Creative Commons license logo, and a note about the blog being licensed under a Creative Commons Reconocimiento-No comercial-Sin obras derivadas 3.0 Ecuador License.