

A LESSON PLAN ON COLLABORATIVE
LEARNING FOR CREATIVE WRITING

Using Google Docs and Whatsapp Voice Note

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A photograph of a person's hands typing on a laptop keyboard. The laptop is on a wooden desk. To the right of the keyboard is a glass of dark beer with a thick head of foam. The background is slightly blurred, showing a notebook and a pen.

definition

Collaborative learning can occur peer-to-peer or in larger groups. Peer learning, or peer instruction, is a type of collaborative learning that involves students working in pairs or small groups to discuss concepts or find solutions to problems. Similar to the idea that two or three heads are better than one, educational researchers have found that through peer instruction, students teach each other by addressing misunderstandings and clarifying misconceptions.

COURSE INFORMATION

1 .	Name of Course	Creative Writing	
2 .	Course Code	LCW1027	
3 .	Type of Course (e.g. : Core, major, elective etc.)	Elective	
4 .	Synopsis	This course introduces students to the principles and process of Creative Writing. Apart from literary topics such as poetry, It includes writing in different contexts, autobiography, personal letter to the editor, writing description and narration, and writing for persuasion.	
5 .	Version (State the date of the Senate's approval - previous and the current approval date)	Current: 29 November 2018 Previous: 8 September 2014	
6 .	Name(s) of Academic Staff	Elizabeth Marshall, Farihan Abdullah, Ng Mindy	
7 .	Semester and Year Offered	Trimester 1, 2, 3, Year 1	
8 .	Credit Value	3	
9 .	Pre-Requisite	Nil	
10 .	Objective of the course in the programme: To expose and develop students' skills to write in a variety of genres.		
11 .	Justification for including the course in the programme: To equip students with skills and techniques needed in creative writing.		
12 .	Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)	Domain	
	CLO1: Identify a variety of writing genres: creative non-fiction, fiction, poetry.	Affective	
	CLO2: Apply skills in analysing creative non-fiction, fiction and poetry	Cognitive	
	CLO3: Prepare creative writing work of different genres	Cognitive	



MODULE

- Creative Writing
 - a range of poems pantun/haiku
 - a short story
 - a memoir

METHODOLOGY - USING GOOGLE DOCS

The Pantun is a linked poem that is written in four lined stanzas. In this model students are required to compose a collaborative poem.

Four students are grouped together (two students from Uni A and two students from Uni B). In a virtual lecture students get to learn about the form. They are encouraged to research the form further.

During the writing week, students set up their own schedule to meet (all four). A google document is set up and shared by one student, giving access to all students in this group. When the link is shared, all four students will be able to edit on the same page/document.

They are encouraged to complete the task in a given time (1.5 hours)

Benefits of this methodology

1. Collaborative learning takes place
2. Building community across campuses/countries
3. Discovery that writing is need not be solitary
4. Learners connect with one another
5. Students take charge of their own learning
6. Learners learn from each other
7. HOTS skills is higher (David, Rahman & Eusiman, 2019)



Methodology - Using whatsapp

In the short story writing module, students are given a lecture on developing character. This requires students to read a sample short story as preparation for class. Then a short story scenario is given for students to start thinking about their major character. In Malaysian settings, students find it difficult to connect and communicate instantly (F2F).

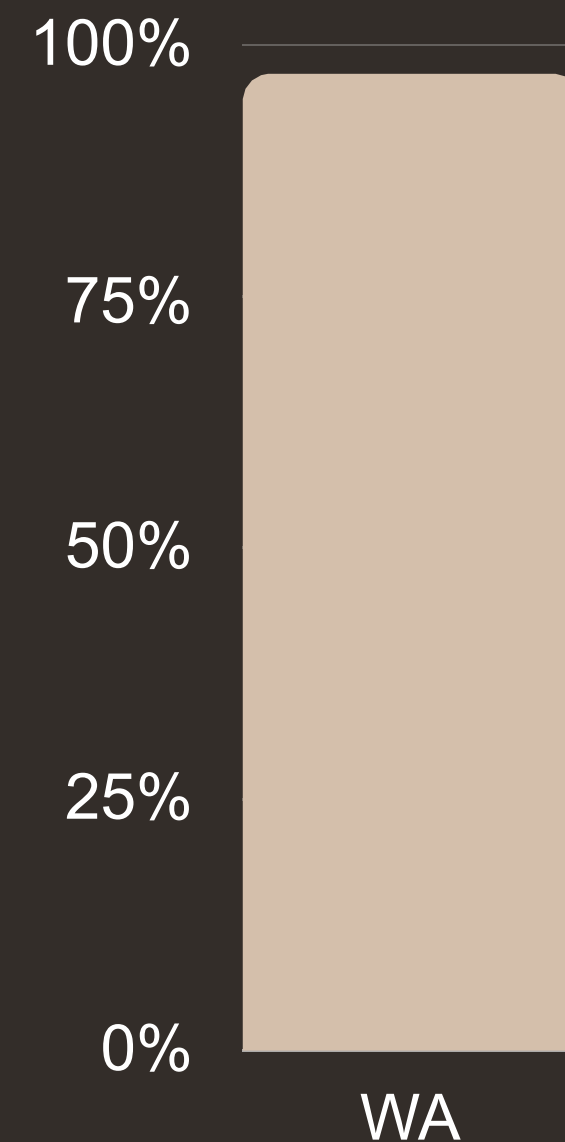
The Whatsapp technology helps students to remove themselves from this awkwardness when they are allowed to record a voice note on their initial thoughts of their main character. Almost all undergraduates in Malaysian Universities have WA on their phones.


Research

In a study conducted in Malaysia by Telenor Research Group 97% of mobile phone users use WA daily.

According to this research it is the world's most popular messaging application.

WHATSAPP USAGE 97%





Collaborative writing can build community, across campus in a traditional classroom setting, or when physically distanced and learning asynchronously. The practice emphasizes that writing is not solitary, isolated endeavour, and that one of its highest purposes is to help people **connect** with one another.

Carrie Conners & Bethany Holmstrom

<https://teaching.cornell.edu/teaching-resources/active-collaborative-learning/collaborative-learning>

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References

