ENHANCING FRESHMAN STUDENTS' WRITING SKILLS WITH A MIND-MAPPING SOFTWARE

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Summary/Abstract: Two groups of freshman students, enrolled in their first writing course in EFL, participated in the study. Before instruction, no significant differences were found between both groups in their writing ability. Both groups were exposed to the same in-class writing instruction. Since students have difficulty generating ideas
in EFL, writing paragraphs with topic sentences and supporting details, a mind-mapping software was used to help students brainstorm, generate ideas, relate main ideas and supporting details. The mind-mapping software uses lines, colors, arrows, branches to show connections between the ideas generated on the mind map. Every week the software was used to create mind maps for the essays they had to write. Post-test results showed that experimental students who used the mind-mapping software, made higher gains in writing.
3 Aims of Study

Does utilization of a mind mapping software have any positive effects on EFL freshman students' writing achievement?

Does utilization of a mind mapping software have any positive effects on freshman students' attitudes towards writing skill development & the mind mapping activity?

A mind map begins with a word or image that symbolizes the topic the student have to write about in the middle using at least 3 colors. The students write down or drew the first things that come up to their mind when they start to think about related issues, people, places, events, reasons, characteristics or examples. They put their thoughts around.

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