

A COGNITIVE MODEL OF WRITING AND ITS IMPLICATION FOR COMPOSITION INSTRUCTION

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ABSTRACT:

Writing is a process of communication through printed symbols. Writing serves many purposes. On the job it is an important mean of communicating. In one's personal life it is a mean of expression and technique for thinking through problems. This paper describes a model of writing proposed by Flower and Hayes(1981a) which is shown in figure. Although the model has not been validated entirely, it serves a useful outline for studying the components of writing skills for the purpose of teaching. Three basic components of this model: planning, translating and reviewing has been elaborated, and it has been examined in the light of research in the area of writing that how the skilled and unskilled writers differ in their abilities to plan, to translate, and to review a written product. Finally, it has been described that how the teacher can follow this model using the technique of scaffolding coined by Applebee and associates. In this connection various strategies for planning, organizing, and reviewing the written composition are outlined for students and teachers. Planning refers to setting goals and generating and organizing ideas. Translating refers to transforming ideas in one's head into strings of words on a piece of paper. Reviewing refers to evaluating what one has written and possibly revising it. According to Flower and Hayes (1981a) these component skills are guided by the rhetorical problem (that is writer's interpretation of the writing task), by the text that has been generated so far, and by the writer's declarative knowledge of the topic, audience, and writing process. There may not be a linear sequence from planning to translating to reviewing. Typically, writing starts with a brief period of preplanning followed by a writing phase in which all the component skills planning, translating, and reviewing are used. Plans made before writing may be revised or elaborated in the light of what may have been written. Sometimes reviewing may occur even