



Introduction to Writing

Learning Project 5

Revising for Style



In this final Revision Learning Project, we raise the concept of Style. Style does not have specific rules and boundaries. Style is as personal as one's voice, handwriting, or manner of dressing. Style also depends upon what is being written, and to whom it is addressed. Personal letters have a different style from personnel handbooks.

It may be that the issue of style in writing is a new concept to your learners. They will have some ideas about style as it applies to other areas and can take that application (Becoming Familiar with the Problem) to make the connection to writing and how they might develop their own style or voice.

Again in this Learning Project, we focus on the writing samples in the PA. In Inquiry Activity 5-1, we ask the learners to look at the style used by each of the two letter writers, then have them rewrite one of the letters in their own style.

Inquiry Activity 5-2 covers the Passive Voice. Most editors and writing instructors prefer the active voice for its immediacy; most new writers, however, like the passive voice for its ponderous sound. Because the passive voice is not grammatically incorrect, the choice whether to use it or not is an issue of style.

This Learning Project is a very useful crossover into Reading. We suggest a number of writers in IA 5-3 who have strongly individual styles, but the issue of style can be discussed with any writer's work.