

PREPARING STUDENTS TO WRITE HIGH-SCHOOL ESSAYS

Darja Kovačič
Elementary School Orehek, Slovenia
darja.kovacic@osorehek.si

Abstract:

The following article will present individual steps that pupils must undertake in order to learn how to write high-school essays. Work with text and development of critical thinking will be presented.

In primary school pupils mostly write experiential and imaginary compositions, while in Grade 9 they start composing half-literary essays. However, in high schools, students being writing proper essays. The transition from imaginary compositions to essays is not easy, that is why I believe that primary school Slovene teachers must prepare pupils for this task.

I believe there are not enough preparations for essay writing in primary schools, therefore, pupils in Grades 7 and 8 must be taught to include their feelings in the compositions. This means that they do not merely describe the course of events but also how the events made them feel.

In Grade 9, literary essay is tackled in steps, for example, pupils are taught how to draw correlations with modern days, with historical events, how to think about a certain notion and how to insert literary elements. Each phase must be properly discussed with pupils, essays must be analyzed and some good examples must be presented to the class.

I recommend that primary school teachers tackle this topic in a relaxed manner, however, it is of utmost importance that this subject is dealt with in primary schools.

Keywords: half-literary essay, essay, correlations with modern days, thinking about notions, drawing parallels with history, insertion of literary elements, adjectives, personification, examples, symbol

