

Process Writing Scheme Prewriting Activities – *The Truth About Youth*

My Year 7 class worked on speechwriting, to persuade, argue and advise. The topic was “the truth about youth,” taken from a festival run by the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester. The best student speeches would be celebrated by being delivered at the Royal Exchange.

Success criteria were to write a speech with fully developed ideas to persuade the listener of “the truth about youth”. I wanted to give students the chance to talk about their ideas of youth in detail before turning to the actual writing itself.

I set up six stations around the classroom, each with different tasks and resources about various aspects of youth. Stations involved: articles showing the bad press that young people get; a video clip about the perceived effects of wearing a hoodie; graphs and statistics on the problems that young people in the UK face; findings of studies into youth role models; a charity leaflet about projects run by “goodies in hoodies;” and a series of statements and discussion prompts about issues of youth culture.

Discussion involved students in developing and defining their ideas, and this formed an excellent basis to build onto and develop student speechwriting. Giving students a variety of areas about youth to discuss in this lesson meant that their own speeches could tackle whatever aspects of youth appealed to them, and resulted in more engaging, persuasive, and believable speeches.

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