

## **NUA Summer Academy 2007 Notes**

### **Evelyn Rothstein**

**“What really differentiates many top students is that they know the meanings of words better than other kids know the meanings of the words they know.” Mel Levine**

**“With a finite number of grammatical structures, we can create an infinite number of sentences.” Noam Chomsky**

### **Teaching Writing vs. Asking Writing**

Teaching writing:

- Developmental
- Systematic
- Organized

Asking Writing:

- “Write about...”
- “Write a story.”
- “Write an essay.”

Learning to write is like learning to play the piano...whatever you do you are playing???

### **In order to write you need...**

To know something about what you are writing about

To know something about the genre of your writing

To know the vocabulary of you genre of topic

To know who you are writing to

To know the voice

### **You also need...**

- Taxonomies (words are free)
- Composing with Key Words - Have words, can write!
- Define format - (you have to know who you're writing to) - Write to a Martian!

### **Sentence stretchers:**

- fold paper into 8 columns

- number
- we passed it around the group

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
When	Determiner (number)	Adjective	Animal/ plural	Verb	Adverb ending in "ly"	where	Punc.

Read the sentences.

Have one student read one part at a time in a row 1-7.

### The Triangle for Building a Powerful Vocabulary:

**Taxonomies** for the building the **Personal Thesaurus**  
**Morphology and Etymology** for **Expanding Syntactic** and **Semantic Meaning**  
**Defining Format** for the **Clarification of Meaning**

An **organic** word wall. A word wall that grows, changes, and develops. Use post-its (maybe).

### Morphology, Etymology, and Grammar: A Triplex in the Scheme of Writing (From Writing as Learning)

Read **Alice in Wonderland** and **Through the Looking Glass**. All about words!

### Stages in the native English speaker's learning English:

5. Anglo-Saxon (everyone knows—birth to 6)
4. Latin (kids who know these words, they have an edge—school years)
3. Greek (academic language)
2. French (Language of Affluence—Social Exposure)
1. Other (Ethno Cultural)

### Meta-language

1. Everyone has a verb.
2. To be a verb in the English language—4 forms

Verb	Noun	Adjective	Adverb
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Write verb Verb forms: Standard present "s" "ing"(currently) "ed" (past)	Grow a noun from the verb	Make verb into a adjective	Make verb into an adverb
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Website:

<http://www.erquint.com/index.html>