



Helping struggling and resistant students:

Why do students struggle?

1- Lack of vocabulary :

Signs :

- Sit in front of a blank page.
- Wondering around.
- Constantly asking “ What is the meaning of.....?”
- Reluctant to use a pen .
- Lots of erasing.

Ways to help :

- Create word banks.
- Encourage sketching.
- Allow the use of Arabic words while labeling or drafting.
- Have limited list of topics.
- Encourage the use of dictionaries.
- Build active partnerships.
- Encourage reading.


2- Lack of confidence:

Signs:

- Saying “I`m not a good writer”.
- Drawing or doodling.
- Going to the bathroom.
- Playing inside the desk.

Ways to help:

- Create a community of writers within your classroom.
- Tap in to their interests.
- Teach at a slightly higher level.
- Set individualized goals.

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- Use student`s writing as a class exemplar.
 - Let them know it`s OK to struggle.

3- Lack of ideas:

Signs:

- Sit in front of a blank page.
- Wondering around.
- Looking around or out of the window.
- Asking “What are you writing about?”
- Tearing pages from notebook.

Ways to help:


- Guide them to live the life of a writer.
- Bring students` passion into the class (books or pictures about things they like)
- Give lots of strategies.
- Help them find their territory (the areas that are important to them)
- Utilize partnerships.

4- Difficulties with spelling:

- Constantly asking “how do you spell ?”.
- Lack of variety in words.
- Always consulting about spelling.
- Reluctant to use a pen.
- Lots of erasing.

Ways to help:

- Implement spelling curriculum or games.
- Show that students` spelling mistakes are OK.
- Give quick tools to deal with unknown spelling>
- Encourage a bit of editing everyday.

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- Utilize your word wall and create individual word walls (the words they ask always about or make mistakes with).
 - Encourage reading.

5- Lack of interest:

Signs:

- Notebook closed.
- Leaning back in their chair.
- Mumbling “ How come we never get to write about.....?”.
- Notebook is full of genres we never taught.
- Avoidance to techniques.

Ways to help:

- Tap into their interest.
- Offer choice – topic choice ,strategy choice.
- Encourage using the notebook outside the class.
- Have independent writing celebrations.

6- Lack of stamina:

Signs:

- Constantly saying “I`m done “.
- Finding excuses for taking breaks.
- Lots of unfinished entries.
- Looking at the clock.

Ways to help:

- Give short breaks.
- Set reachable goals.
- Get them talking.
- Schedule writing workshops in the morning.
- Practice “Quick Writes “...Pencil to the page ,write what you can..for 2-3 min.