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Effective Practices for Developing Academic Language and Writing Skills in English Language Learners in the Elementary School Setting

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Effective Practices for Developing Academic
Language and Writing Skills in English
Language Learners

Dominican University of California

Jenna Emadzadeh

April 23rd, 2015

Research Question

What practices are effective for teaching English language learners (ELLs) academic vocabulary and writing skills?

Terms Defined

- ❖ **English Language Learners (ELLs)**
- ❖ **Newcomer**
- ❖ **Academic Language**

Key Points

1. **Culturally Responsive Teaching**
 1. **Project GLAD**
 1. **Academic Vocabulary & Writing Instruction**

Key Point 1

Culturally Responsive Teaching

Gay, G. (2010)

Key Point 2

Project GLAD

Bay Area GLAD & Be GLAD (2014).

Key Point 3

Academic Vocabulary & Writing Instruction

DiCerbo, P.A., Anstrom, K.A., Baker, L.L., & Rivera, C. (2014)

Kim, Olson, Scarcella, Kramer, Pearson, VanDyk, Collins, Land (2011)

Method

- ❖ This teacher action research project involved 20 students in the 5th grade, at varying levels of English language proficiency.
- ❖ Students received targeted instruction during ELD time for 45-minutes each day, four days a week.
- ❖ Qualitative data were gathered on the students using rubric scored writing samples (PRE- and POST-).

Findings

- ❖ **Strategies Used (Academic Vocabulary & Writing)**
- ❖ **The findings of this study showed an improvement in writing based on rubric scores between pre- and post-assessments**
- ❖ **Future Implications**

Conclusion

- ❖ ELD instruction time and programs
- ❖ Additional strategies for upper grades
- ❖ Programs and strategies for newcomers and students with diverse learning needs

Reflections

- ❖ My Reflections
- ❖ Questions/Comments
- ❖ Your Reflections

References

- ❖ Bay Area GLAD & Be GLAD. (2014). Project GLAD. Retrieved October 9, 2014 from <http://projectglad.com>
- ❖ DiCerbo, P.A., Anstrom, K.A., Baker, L.L., & Rivera, C. (2014). A review of the literature on teaching academic English to English language learners. *Review of Educational Research*, 84 (3), 446. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com>
- ❖ Gay, G. (2010). *Culturally responsive teaching-theory, research, and practice*. New York: Teachers College Press.