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Building a New Generation Writing-Across-the-Curriculum Program: What Can an Emerging Program Learn from the Past?

建構一個新世代跨領域英語寫作課程: 從過去的經驗我們可以學到甚麼?

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摘 要

提昇大學生的英語寫作能力已經成為是近年來英語教育的一項重要 議題;本文作者提議,藉由引進「跨領域寫作」的理念,我們可以建構 出一個新穎且有效的英語寫作課程,來幫助強化各學科領域的學生之英 語寫作能力。

就英語教育界而言,「跨領域寫作」的概念雖然不陌生,但在過去的實際發展上,此類課程的推行卻遭遇了不少的失敗經驗。本文重新檢視「跨領域寫作」的發展,探討其源頭、建構過程、初期的成功案例、以及後期所經歷的問題與挑戰。藉由歷史的回顧,本文作者希望,在重新規劃出一個「新世代跨領域英語寫作」課程的過程當中,可以避免重蹈覆轍過去相同的錯誤。

本文最後並提供建構「新世代跨領域英語寫作」課程的五大基本要素,分別為: (1)大規模地進行全校性師生英語寫作需求之普查、(2)「跨領域英語寫作課程」的主導人位置必須明確規範並長效性設置、(3)提供並資助本課程的先期教師訓練,加強跨領域教師之間的相互了解、(4)對實行本課程的教師群給予持續性的訓練及援助、以及(5)將「跨領域英語寫作」課程的理念融入該學術機構的課程設計當中。

關鍵詞:跨領域寫作、課程設計、英文寫作、讀寫理論、高等教育

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Abstract

Improving college students' writing fluency has become a widely discussed topic in the recent development of English education. By introducing the idea of "Writing across the Curriculum," the author is proposing for the establishment of a new and efficient writing program to help student writers across all academic fields.

The concept behind Writing-across-the-Curriculum (WAC) program is not new; however, it had experienced many failures when it was first introduced. In this paper, the author approaches the WAC program from a historical perspective, discussing its origin, development, early successes, and its problems that follow. Through the reviews, the author hopes to avoid repeating the same mistakes and start a second generation Writing-across-the-Curriculum program in his current college. Five key elements to focus in a new WAC program are also suggested: (1) a

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campus-wide needs assessment, (2) an institutional structure for leadership within the WAC program, (3) carefully planned and funded initial workshops with faculty members to overcome misunderstandings, (4) on-going training and support for teachers implementing WAC, and (5) institutionalizing WAC by writing it into curricular reforms and mission and goal statements.

Keywords: writing across the curriculum (WAC), curriculum/syllabus design, English composition, reading and writing theory, higher education