Make Your Students Write Better Papers
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**Step 1**
Teach writing early! Take time in class!

**Step 2**
Design writing projects with “stakes.” Give students a genre & an audience other than yourself.

**Step 3**
Give students a “scaffolding paper” early in the semester. This lets them practice the larger paper & gives them feedback early.

**Step 4**
Build in drafts & reviews! Peer review is OK! You don’t have to grade EVERY SINGLETHING!

**Step 5**
Enjoy grading papers that don’t make you want to scream!

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Write a Research Paper on a topic of your choosing. It’s due April 29th.

Aaargghh!!! Why are these papers so bad?

My students can’t write! They don’t follow directions! #@*%!

My students can’t write!

My students are poor writers, too.

Ditto.

You are an intern for the FBI. You work for the branch that investigates domestic terrorist groups. Your boss gave you three articles to read and asks you to write a two-three page brief on why and how people join white supremacist groups. Your boss assigned this project to other interns in your program, however this is not a group task. It’s likely she is using this task not only to help her with her work, but also to identify which interns she will want to keep & possibly hire.

Enjoy grading papers that don’t make you want to scream!

I learned all this from ATL’s Writing Across The Curriculum workshop. Thanks to Nedra, Eric, & all my fellow participants. Also John Bean’s book Engaging Ideas: The Professor’s Guide to Integrating Writing, Critical Thinking, and Active Learning in the Classroom is super helpful.