

Communicative Writing for Building Communities

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Especially in recent times, writing tasks can be demotivating for language learners.

Students face:

- ◆ isolated learning communities
 - online learning
 - private lessons
- ◆ non-communicative writing tasks
- ◆ lack of an audience or read solely by the instructor

WHY

WHAT

Class Newsletters

- compilation of student and teacher writing published throughout the year

KEY FEATURES

- writing topics are creative and specific
 - *What skill do you have that not many people know about?*
 - *What superpower would you want? What would you do with it?*
- learners are encouraged to read others
- the group of learners stays relatively consistent

VARIATIONS

Easily adapted to a variety of teaching environments, creating connections between students in one class or even among groups of private lesson students.

- daily emailed vignettes
- letters from and to students and teachers
- end-of-the-year class booklets

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Further Suggested Reading:

Dörnyei, Z., Murphey, T. *Group Dynamics in the Language Classroom*. 2003, Cambridge University Press.

Harmer, J. *How to Teach Writing*. 2008, Pearson Education Limited.

Nation, I. *Teaching ESL/EFL Reading and Writing*. 2009, Routledge