

A PORTFOLIO FOR MILLENNIAL LEARNERS IN ESSAY WRITING CLASS

Nurul Puspita

UIN RADEN INTAN LAMPUNG

Email: nurulpuspita@radenintan.ac.id

***Abstract.** Millennial learners like to do a trial and error. Their critical thinking always changes all the times. In addition, they attempt to use their best effort in finding some solutions of their problems. In doing such writing, a millennial portrays their point of view in arranging a logical order of writing. It commonly names essay writing. Essay writing begins with clustering any ideas related to particular topic or issue. And then, they can starts to design an outline. By using the outline, millennial continues the activity into drafting and revising. The stages are enough complicated. Furthermore, the practitioner especially a lecture should give more critics or comment to the writing. A portfolio can be use to check their progress of self correction of peer correction. This media is used to collect their works into a bundle. There will be some writing which has been produced then they can easily correct the mistakes of the writing. In this article, the lecturer use portfolio in essay writing class with the subject a millennial learner. They should produce some themes or topics that have been designed. Therefore, this media really help them in correcting their writing. Thus, they might get a good result of essay writing.*

Key words: Portfolio, Millennial Learners, Essay Writing

A. INTRODUCTION

Essay writing is one of essential lecture in the sequence of writing subject. There are many topics or themes should be achieved by the students. For instance, the students have to write good essays and articles based on logical division of ideas, cause and effect, order of importance and comparison and contrast. The students deal with outlining, drafting, and revising the essays or articles. Therefore, they should submit many drafts along the semester. On the other hand, the lecturer finds the difficulties in correcting the students' works. Since, the students' works is in some bundles and there are many elements should be criticized. According to Harris (1969:69) the writing process, as commonly conceived, is a highly

sophisticated skill combining a number of diverse elements, only some of which are strictly linguistic. The elements are content, form, grammar, style, and mechanics.

Those explanations show that in making a good essay writing the students should pay attention to some aspects of writing. Besides that, choosing appropriate topics is also needed. Moreover, the students will be easy in elaborating their opinions or ideas. The students can do a comparison in each of the essay that has been produced through their own portfolio. They generate their essay writing then write it down in the journal or portfolio. The students will obtain some comment or suggestion relate to their writing. Furthermore, they can revise or edit their writing in order to be good order.

In addition, a portfolio is an excellent way used in writing an essay. The students can directly know their mistakes in their writing. They should realize what they have done. O'Malley and Chamot in Behzad (2011:232) indicated that a key element of portfolios is student self-assessment; without self-assessment and reflection on the part of the student, a portfolio is not a portfolio. Thus, the students must do a peer editing in getting an outcomes for the betterment of their essay. Peer editing is an activity where the students work in pair or couple to correct their writing. It means that after doing the peer editing the students will get outcomes. The outcomes are in form of comment or suggestion produced by peer editing session.

In conclusion, this article aims in describing the implementation of the use a portfolio in essay writing class. It is expected after using a portfolio in colleting the students' writing; the students would be easy in doing self assessment in correcting their writing. Thus, they could recognize of their improvement in their own writing.

Portfolio

Portfolio is a collection of product of students work showing students reflection and progress or achievement over time in one or more areas providing a basis for judging students accomplishment (Sharon and Andrew, 2002:88). It means that the students obtain some

comment and suggestion through the revising stage after doing reflection. It is continuous activity that should be done by the students in each activity. They can directly retreat their writing in the next page of their portfolio. Thus, the students shall get a good quality of the essay. A good quality of the essay means that they write base on the logical order.

Paulson and Mayer in Osman and Adnan (2007:77) define that portfolio is a purposeful collections of student's work that exhibits the student's efforts, progress and achievement in one or more areas. The statement means that by using a portfolio the students can easily record their writing. In their recording, the students may analyze and revise the writing. Moreover, the students shall increase their ability in writing by knowing the progress through a portfolio. It is suitable with the stages of writing. It begins with outlining, drafting, and revising. In each of the portfolio will show the draft that has been revised.

Portfolios are considered to help students to learn and develop such skills in a foreign language. It is specifically stated that keeping a portfolio help students acquire information about paragraphs and the use of some pre-writing strategies like brainstorming, clustering and outlining (Aydin in Sibel and Silami, 2016: 206). Besides collecting the students' work, a portfolio can be used to keep their progress in tracking their prior knowledge. For instance, in the stages of writing starts in producing outlining, drafting and revising. Thus, they can easily check their mistakes. And then, they can edit the mistakes based on the comment or suggestion.

To sum up the theories above, the researcher conclude that a portfolio is a collection of students' activity in writing. It shows students progress and self reflection. In addition, the students can easily revise their writing in the next file of portfolio. It shall show students' effort during outlining, drafting, and revising stages of writing.

Millennial Learners

Millennial Generation is at range of pedagogical issues. Born between 1982 and 2003 and also known as Generation Y, the Millennial have been hailed as a new “Great Generation (Wilson and Gerber, 2008: 29). This generation is about 21 years old. It has been called great generation cause they can master technology. For instance, the use of gadget in their everyday life is left. The use of gadget is used to access internet.

According to Roberts et.al (2012:1) millennial generation of learners is frequently characterized as having deep understanding of, and appreciation for, technology and social connectedness. This generation of learners has also been molded by a unique set of cultural influences that are essential for medical educators to consider in all aspects of their teaching, including curriculum design, student assessment, and interactions between faculty and learners.

The millennial students or millennials are children who were born from 1981 to 2004 and are also known as Generation Y. The millennial students are strongly influenced by tools of Information Technology. So, they can even be called IT kids (Menon and Alamelu, 2018:110). This generation engaged with highly sophisticated technology. They like to surf the internet. It is believed that they cannot live without technology.

It can be concluded that millennial is a generation which is engaged with technology. They access all the things through the gadget. They are about 21 to 24 years old now. This generation of learners has also been molded by a unique set of culture. They are also known as It learners.

Essay Writing

In general essays writing fall along a continuum between those that ask you to describe a particular phenomenon, and those that ask to discuss, analyze, criticize and debate particular issues (Henry, 2004:5). It deals with specific event or current trend among the society. The event and trend are portrayed the activities in a period of time. In addition, the readers may

read the result of description. The description above is explained into some paragraphs and along some stages. For instance, outlining, drafting, revising or editing.

Generally, an essay is a presentation of the author's point of view in a free form. An essay may encompass various arguments like literary criticism, various everyday observations, political manifestos, etc. Though the general structure of each essay is common, still there are some peculiarities (according to every type) (Harvard Graduate School of education: 2019). The statement above means that the writers may freely picture their ideas or opinions in a piece of writing. They can show their point of view related to some phenomena among their interpretation. They may give their best critical thinking. The critical thinking is shared in writing.

Essay contains vivid images, description, and personal reflection. It may even include direct quotes to add to the veracity and flow (Simon and Schuster, 2003:4). By showing brilliant ideas or opinion the reader can catch the gist of the writing. It means that they have read the product of someone expression. The expressions are arranged into some logical order then it becomes a good writing.

In conclusion, essay writing is the result of someone description from particular phenomena or even. The writer may show their discussion, critics, analysis, and everyday observations. It deals with some topics or themes from any society. It works through some steps from outlining, drafting, and revising or editing.

B. METHODOLOGY

This article seeks to understand a phenomenon by focusing on the total picture rather than breaking it down the variables. The goal is a holistic picture and depth of understanding rather than a numeric analysis of data. It is a descriptive qualitative (Donald etall, 2011: 29). In this article, the use of portfolio was pictured in detail. The portfolio was used by millennial learners in essay writing class. They collected their works in a portfolio.

According to Creswell data collection is to identify the types of data that will address your research questions. It means that the researcher should use kinds of tool in submitting the information along the research. In this article, the researcher used observation and interview in collecting the data.

Miles and Huberman (1994:10) define analysis as consisting of three concurrent flows of activity: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification. The data that is form words or utterance is analyzed by using those three flows. Thus, the researcher obtained the result of this article.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This article described the implementation of portfolio in the process of teaching and learning essay writing. Technically, the students did their writing step by step in their file. Moreover, they collect their own writing in their portfolio. Thus, they can do self and peer correction to revise or edit the mistakes.

The used of portfolio began at 6th meeting. Here is the example of portfolio used by one of the student:



Figure 1. Cover Portfolio

Portfolio is a collection of students work. In this article the students work is taken from students essay writing class. In making essay writing the students should follow the process of writing. The first stage is making outline. The students should narrow the topic into very specific topic. It will make them easy in elaborating the ideas. In the essay writing class which has been done, the lecturer asked them to make the outline twice. Here is the first file of students outline in their portfolio:

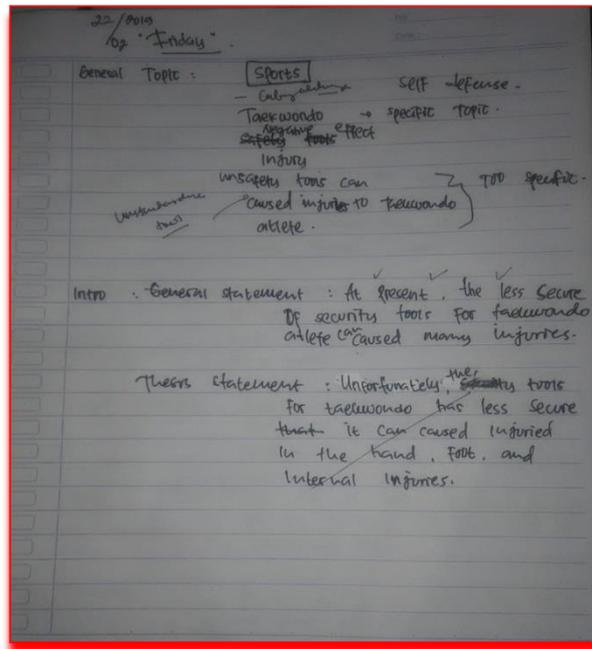


Figure 2. outline 1

There are some mistakes done by the students in their first outline. In addition, they should revise the outline. After revising the first outline, then the students made second outline. Here is the example:

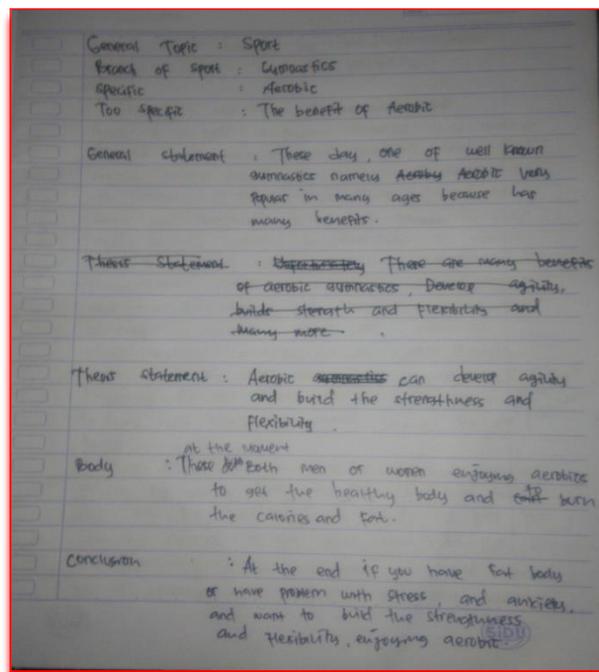


Figure 3. Outline 2

The next stage is drafting. In this stage, the students elaborate or explore their outline into a logical order of draft. There are some parts of their draft. For instance, introducing paragraph, body, and concluding paragraph. As follow is the example of the first draft:

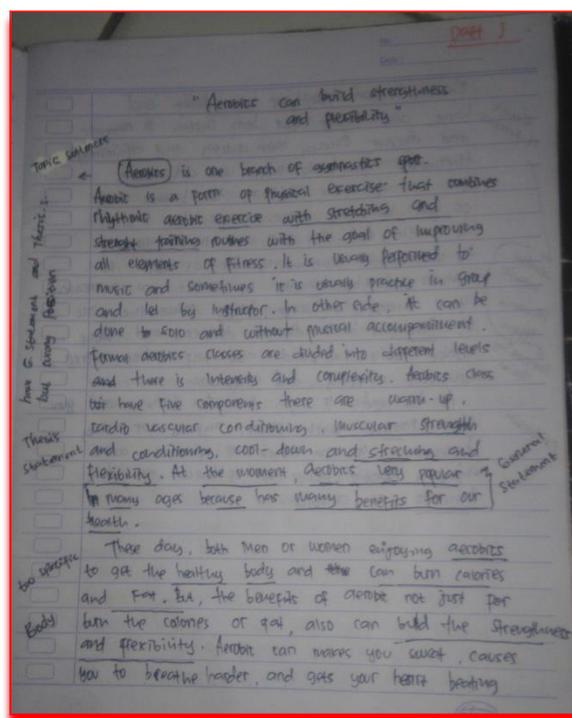


Figure 4. Draft 1

There are many comments and suggestion from peer editing activities from the draft above. Furthermore, the students should revise or edit their first draft. It is commonly called with revising stage. Besides, peer editing correction, the students also may do self correction. They can read their draft then they decide to revise the draft. Here is the result or first draft's revising:

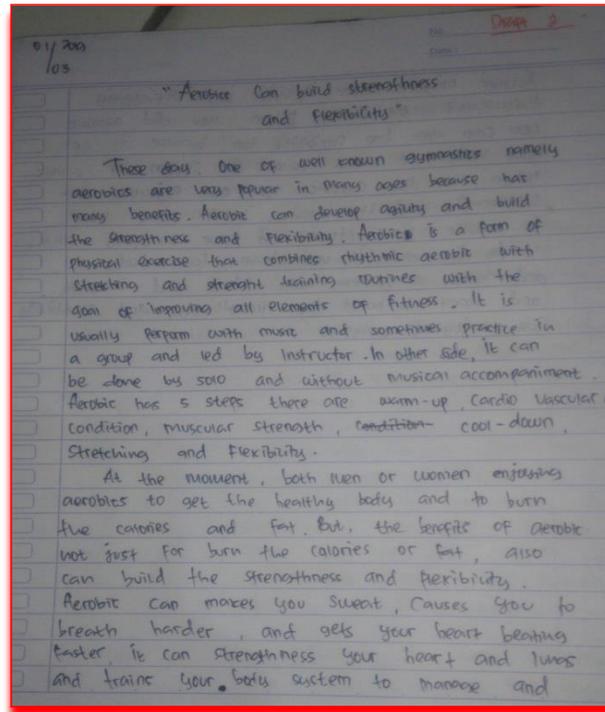


Figure 5. Draft 2

The students did once revising. The second draft is their final draft. In this session the lecture give general topic. It is about “Sport”. By collecting each file of their writing the students felt easy to start and revise their essay writing. From the figure explained, the students can take more advantages rather than disadvantages in the use of portfolio. The figure above is just one of the examples of essay writing which has been produced by the students.

In students’ portfolio, there are about six topics given. It means that there are many files or works that has been collected in their portfolio. It is suitable with the explanation related to the use of portfolio. The following is the arrangement of the topics given to the students during teaching and learning process in the essay writing class.

Table 1. Topic in Students' Portfolio

Topic	Meeting
Sport	6 th meeting
Social Media	8 th meeting
Comparison Essay: Skateboard	10 th meeting
Contrast Essay: Animal	12 nd meeting
Classification Essay: Study Habits	14 th meeting
Cause and Effect Essay: Scholarship	16 th meeting

From those six topics, the students should make essay based on the process of writing. Each stage of their essay is collected in their own portfolio.

D. CONCLUSION

In teaching and learning process of essay writing, the use of portfolio is very useful. The students' works can be collected neatly. Although the students should do some revision but they still obtain positive advantages. It is also pictured that a millennial learners have big effort in giving critical thinking. It is proved in each of the comments or suggestions given in the each draft during peer correction.

There are six topics given to the students in a semester of teaching and learning process. For example about producing general essay, comparison essay, contrast essay, cause and effect essay, and classification essay. The lecturer gave two different topics in general essay. They are about "sport" and "social media".

In conclusion, the implementation of using portfolio in essay writing class is very helpful. The students are easy to check and revise their own writing. The comment and suggestions have served in the file of portfolio. They just need to proof read their essay then they start to revise the mistakes. As millennial learners, the fourth semester students have deep understanding in doing writing. They can check their miss spell, grammar, and vocabulary

through sophisticated technology. One of the technologies is the use of gadget. In revising stage, they can freely check the spelling of the words. Thus, the used of portfolio by millennial learner in essay writing class is very efficient. They can check the file easily through the portfolio.

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