TEACHING WRITING IN NURSING WEEK 2

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APPROACHES TO TEACHING WRITING

▶ The presentation on the web outlines the movement from

▶ traditional approaches (text as isolated object) to the

▶ process movement (focus on the cognitive and then social processes affecting the production of any particular text) and then the

▶ Post-process or genre/context-driven approaches that focus on the text in society, text as communicative act, text as genre, as social action

THE 5-HEADED GRAMMAR MONSTER

Scientific descriptions of grammar

Linguistic etiquette grammar of social class

Internal, native speaker grammar

Traditional school grammar; parts of speech

Stylistic grammar; coherence, cohesion

WHERE ARE THEY TAUGHT?

Scientific descriptions of grammar =

Dept. of Linguistics

Linguistic etiquette grammar of social class =

Finishing school

Internal, native speaker grammar

Traditional school grammar; parts of speech =

K-12

Stylistic grammar; coherence, cohesion =

Post-secondary

GRAMMAR VS. USAGE

- Where do you stand on teaching correctness in standard edited English?
- Where does our tolerance for language "diversity" end (the steps of the primary school? First-year writing/English classes?) and language correctness take over in the educational system?

WHAT DOE S THE EVIDENCE SAY?

▶ Roughly the same number of errors now as in 1920

▶ Graders see errors when they look for them, and they don't see them when they aren't looking

▶ Competence vrs performance: students have more competence than they sometimes show

▶ The harder the assignment, the more errors they make

▶ Traditional grading practices make things worse; students need practice finding their own errors

▶ Write "revision-oriented" comments that send the message that the ideas are important and not developed well

▶ Help L2 students see the larger rhetorical patterns and genre constraints; ignore "accent" errors like articles, non-count nouns

IDEAS INTO ACTION

- Write a paragraph or make a list of phrases that describe your attitude to error in student writing in your classes.