

Using the WISHEES website to support student writing in STEM Subjects in the EAP classroom



Debra Hills
QMUL, Nov 12

We'll look at:

- The Stem Wishees website
- The thinking behind the collection, in particular notions of feedback and variation in students' work
- What a collection is and how it can be used by EAP teachers
- Whether the model could be used to develop similar EAP-specific materials
- Your ideas/suggestions/opinions

The Stem Wishees website

The thinking behind the collection

- ❑ Not model texts but authentic 'warts and all'
- ❑ Variation to see more than one ways to tackle an assignment
- ❑ Texts range from good to excellent
- ❑ Students able to benchmark themselves against the texts

- ❑ Students don't read feedback and often only take in one or two key points
- ❑ Videos make tutors more accessible and idea of a visible audience
- ❑ Assessment criteria means different things to different people
- ❑ Tutors rely on far more than criteria; their own tacit knowledge
- ❑ Collections make implicit judgements explicit and allow students change to develop their own tacit knowledge in what makes good writing

How a collection can be used by EAP teachers

- ❑ For own development to hear what discipline-specific tutors value in work
- ❑ To see differences/ overlap in different disciplines
- ❑ To see the types of tasks Stem students are required to answer
- ❑ Use in class. Students read and rate the 3 texts then listen and compare their ideas to tutors

Whether the model could be used to develop similar EAP-specific materials

- 3 texts showing variation
- An EAP tutor talking about one or two aspects of these texts
- Additional learning resources to build on the particular issue under focus

Your comments / ideas?

Comments
encouraged!

