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THE PEEL PATHWAY: A LEARNING INNOVATION FOR SMARTER LEARNING AND BETTER GRADES

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ABSTRACT

Transitioning from school to university education poses substantial challenges for students, particularly those diploma and undergraduate learners. One key difficulty is the lack of critical explanatory skills, specifically the ability to express thought and explain ideas clearly, convincingly, and analytically. This deficiency often contributes to poor individual performance in coursework, poor subject performance, and an overall decline in program achievement. Conversely, the ability to communicate ideas effectively is a strong determinant of academic success. To address this issue, the PEEI approach, a student-centered framework was introduced and implemented. PEEI stands for Point, Elaboration, Example, and Impact. This four-step method is designed to guide students in organizing and expressing their thoughts more effectively. This approach serves as a practical tool for guiding students to identify their key point, elaborate on it, support it with relevant examples, and discuss its implications. Students are guided to apply the PEEI framework during tutorial sessions. Feedback indicates that most students find the PEEI approach beneficial in refining their ability to present ideas more effectively. Moreover, lecturers can utilize this approach to improve course outcomes and use it as effective teaching strategies in higher education. PEEI proves to be a simple yet powerful method for enhancing students' articulation skills in higher education learning environments.

Keywords: PEEI approach, explanatory skills, academic performance

INTRODUCTION

Explanatory skills and writing proficiency are crucial for academic excellence, particularly in final examinations and final written assessments where students are encouraged to communicate their understanding clearly, systematically, logically and creatively. High explanatory skills empower learners to organize their ideas, articulate key points, and support their arguments with relevant

examples and reasoning. Learners’ continued reliance on educators’ input has been shown to hinder the development of essential writing techniques (Cheng, 2016), as well as their capacity for effective communication and higher-order thinking (Palpanadan et al., 2019). Saravanan et al. (2021) highlight that learners’ focus more on linguistic accuracy such as grammar, spelling, and vocabulary over the actual content of their writing. In learning to write explanatory texts, students often face obstacles like low motivation, fragmented idea development, and lack of coherence. Their struggles are particularly evident in composing introductory statements, maintaining logical sequencing, and explaining phenomena effectively (Perdana et al., 2022). Ability to maintain logical flow, cohesive structure, and seamless transitions remains a persistent challenge for learners and hinder writing quality among learners (Zakaria., & Sulaiman, 2024). Strengthening students’ explanatory skills not only enhances academic attainment but also builds lifelong communication competencies. Due to that PEEI approach is introduced to educate and train learners on effective technique of explaining their point.

METHODS

This study adopted a practical application approach, utilizing the PEEI method (Point, Elaborate, Example, Impact) as the foundational teaching strategy. The PEEI approach was implemented as a classroom-based teaching method throughout the semester to enhance students' explanatory skills. To evaluate the effectiveness of this approach, a simple online quantitative survey was conducted at the end of the semester involving 64 second-semester students enrolled for the Human Resource Management in the Public Sector course. The survey consisted of closed-ended questions using nominal data, where students were asked to indicate their agreement or disagreement with a series of statements related to the PEEI approach. The responses were analyzed using descriptive statistics, focusing on learners’ views regarding the user-friendliness of the PEEI approach, adequacy of training, enhancement of their explanatory abilities, confidence in idea articulation, support in developing coherent arguments, and overall satisfaction with the method. Picture 1.0 illustrates the PEEI approach template, which is designed to train and motivate learners in developing and strengthening their explanatory skills through structured practice.



Picture 1.: PEEI approach template

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the feedback collected through the survey, the majority of learners responded positively to the implementation of the PEEI approach. Most students indicated that they were able to understand and apply the method effectively during both tutorial sessions and their final examination. Table 1 shows the result of a survey conducted on PEEI approach.

Table 1.: Learners response on the PEEI approach

Questions	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)
The PEEI approach is straightforward and easy to grasp.	98.4	1.6
I have been trained to use the PEEI method during tutorial sessions.	96.9	3.1
Using the PEEI approach helps me to improve my skill in explaining my point effectively.	98.4	1.6
I confidently applied the PEEI method during my final assessment.	85.9	14.1
I love using the PEEI approach	100	0

CONCLUSION

The success of the PEEI approach in improving learners' abilities to explain their point confidently highlights its potential as an effective instructional tool. This approach is not only helping students to achieve better academic performance but also gaining pivotal skills such as critical thinking, structured reasoning, logical progression of thoughts and systematic flow of ideas. It is hoped that these skills will continue to support learners in their future academic pursuits and professional careers. This approach anticipated will continue to empower learners, preparing them not just for exam purposes but also for lifelong learning.

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