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EAIE
Esports as Accelerator for Social Inclusive Education

LESSON
TRANSFERRING GAMING COMPETENCIES TO ACADEMIC SKILLS: 1. CONCISE AND PRECISE WRITING

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CONCISE AND PRECISE WRITING

This learning design aims to leverage the competencies students develop through digital gameplay and make them visible, transferable, and applicable in academic contexts. In this exercise, students will practise being precise and concise in their academic writing. The example provided is from an English class, but the activity is equally relevant in other language subjects or any context with a focus on writing and communication.

Subject and level
English B-level. Upper Secondary Education.

Connection to curriculum
This task forms part of the students' broader development in academic writing, with a specific focus on the summary genre.

Didactic and pedagogic considerations
Many students engage deeply with digital games, developing advanced skills in communication, problem-solving, collaboration, and strategic thinking. This exercise aims to enhance students' metacognitive awareness of these competencies and to strengthen their academic writing and study skills by drawing clear parallels between gaming practices and academic work. In addition, the activity may tap into students' existing interests or prior knowledge of games or esports, thereby increasing motivation and engaging them within their zone of proximal development.

Time estimate
2-3 hours

Group size
Class, in pairs and individually

Overall introduction to exercise
This exercise is designed to be flexible in its examples and academic objectives, allowing you to easily expand on the material, adjust learning goals, or swap, elaborate, or extend parts of the activity as needed. The estimated duration of the activity may vary considerably depending on the students' skill levels, your introduction, and the depth of the examples used.
While the exercise includes specific learning goals, it can also function as a creative or cognitive break, offering additional benefits by fostering engagement and academic interest in students.

CONCISE AND PRECISE WRITING

Exercise as presented to the students

How to be precise / concise

Introduction: Presentation of why precise and concise communication is important, relevancy, and the link between gaming skills and academic skills.

In games:

- Players need to give quick and clear commands (in team-based games like *League of Legends* or *Counter-Strike*).
- Writing in in-game chat requires brevity — space and time are limited.
- Speedrunning communities document very precise strategies and steps.

In academic work:

- Writing thesis statements, abstracts, and conclusions.
- Formulating clear arguments in essays.
- Communicating findings in presentations.

Class activity:

- Have students write a game walkthrough in 4-5 sentences, then rewrite the exercise into a concise summary or scientific abstract.

Learning Goals:

- Writing clear, precise, and purposeful text
- Distinguishing between **step-by-step description** and **abstracted summary**
- Understanding audience and purpose in writing
- Enhancing students' metacognitive awareness of overlap between gaming competencies their academic study and writing skills.

CONCISE AND PRECISE WRITING

Step 1 - Preparation: Clarify purpose and concepts

Start by discussing:

- What is a **walkthrough**? (Audience = gamers, purpose = help someone complete a level/task)

What is a **summary / scientific abstract**? (Audience = academic readers, purpose = give overview, not all details)

CONCISE AND PRECISE WRITING

Step 2 - Write a game walkthrough

Task: Write a 4-5 sentence walkthrough for a simple game task.
Examples:

- How to defeat a boss in a game of your choosing
(examples: WoW, Dark Souls, Hollow Knight etc.)

- How to solve a puzzle in a game of your choosing
(examples: Backrooms: Escape Together, Sky: Children of the Light etc.)

- How to win your first match in a competitive game of your choosing.

Reflections to support your writing:

- What is your objective?

- What steps must the player take?

- What obstacles must be avoided or overcome?

- What tips would you give a new player?

Model example:
"To defeat the Hollow Knight boss, first prepare your charms for high mobility. Start by dodging the opening lunge attack, then counter with quick nail strikes. When the boss staggers, use this moment to heal. Watch for the second phase when the boss adds aerial slashes. Maintain a rhythm of attack, dodge, and heal. Finally, finish with sustained strikes as the boss slows down."

CONCISE AND PRECISE WRITING

Step 3 - Analyze what makes it precise?

Discuss with a partner:

- What makes this writing precise?
- Where is it concise — where is it too detailed?

Could it be even more concise? How?

Step 4 - Rewrite as a concise summary / abstract

Now students rewrite their walkthrough as if they were writing:
→ a scientific abstract about “how to complete X task”
or
→ a game summary for an academic audience

Constraints:

- Maximum 3-4 sentences
- No detailed step-by-step, just overall approach and learning points
- Audience: Readers who want a quick understanding of strategy / approach

Model rewrite:
"Defeating the Hollow Knight boss requires strategic mobility and careful timing. Players must alternate between offensive strikes and evasive maneuvers, adjusting to the boss’s changing attack patterns. Success depends on pattern recognition and effective resource management (healing and stamina)."

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Step 5 - Reflection and comparison

As a class or in pairs:

- Compare original walkthrough to summary/abstract
- Discuss:
  - What did you cut?
  - What did you keep?
  - How did your focus shift from doing to understanding?
- Reflect on parallels:
  - *How is this like writing a scientific abstract?*
  - *How is this like writing an essay introduction or conclusion?*
  - *How can we apply this skill to other types of academic writing?*

Optional extensions

- Have students practice with actual scientific abstracts (highlight what is included vs. left out)
- Do the reverse: Give an abstract and ask students to imagine/write a "walkthrough" version
- Apply same process to summarizing a text, historical event, or experiment
- Extend the number of words or sentences to better fit your academic goal

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