

## **Using Padlet as A Writing Strategy for Online Classes: A Study Conducted for the Undergraduates**

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### **Abstract**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation in Sri Lanka, physical classroom teaching has transformed into virtual teaching and learning making the process bit complicated for both teachers and learners. An online application called Padlet can be used for writing tasks in online classes which facilitates the features for collaborative learning as well. Therefore, this study aimed to investigate the effect of using Padlet on enhancing first-year undergraduates' writing skills on essay writing. This research was conducted for six weeks in the first semester of the academic year 2019/20 at the University of Kelaniya. Two classes which were consisted of the students from the Faculty of Humanities who got below 30 marks for their English language placement test were selected as the population and the sample was consisted of randomly selected 35 students form each class. These two classes were divided into two groups: control group and experimental group. The participants were pretested at the beginning of the study to make sure that they were homogenous. Afterwards, the experimental group received an intensive training and writing exercises through using Padlet and the control group was instructed through the traditional lecture-discussion instruction method. At the end of the experiment, the two groups were post tested using a writing an essay post-test in order to evaluate their writing skills. The quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS and to affirm those findings qualitative data gathers form questionnaires, observations and the review of the students' work were analyzed thematically. The findings of the study revealed that there were statistically significant differences between the means of two groups in favor of the experimental group which achieved better results in the post-test. The results of this study showed that the majority of the students agreed that the usage of Padlet assisted them to improve their writing skills.

**Keywords:** Online learning, writing skills, Padlet, interaction

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