

THAT WAS THEN

When I learned to write...

Teachers usually gave the students topics to write about. Students wrote because the teacher said they had to.

The teacher told students WHAT to write about, how long to write it, and when it was due.

Teachers controlled the assignments, walking the whole class through the entire writing process all at the same time.

Every writing assignment was started on Monday and finished (published) on Friday.

Students wrote, turned it in, and didn't know if it was "good" until they got it back from the teacher with a grade on it.

"Good writing" included correct spelling, capitalization, grammar, punctuation, and neat handwriting. (This only addressed the trait of Conventions.)

THIS IS NOW

When my child learns to write...

Teachers reveal *why* people really write— for a purpose/reason, to an audience, about an important topic/subject.

Teachers balance "no choice" writing with "free choice" writing.

Teachers show students HOW to write. Teachers demonstrate how to incorporate particular skills into their writing.

Students work more independently at their own pace. They move their own writings through the process, seeking support at various stages.

Students often write first drafts only, to honor what real-world writing looks like.

Students learn the qualities of "good writing." They can self-revise, self-edit, and even self-assess their own writing. They know if it's "good" *before* they turn it in.