

## Academic Writing: extract from a year 2 PGCE research project

### Multiple choice questions

My research highlighted the problems of using multiple choice questions to assess writing. Even assessments which used multiple choice, such as the Skills for Life Survey and the Dfes materials, stated their reservations about the accuracy of the data they provided. An alternative approach could be to standardise assessment decisions about students' free writing through regular moderation meetings. This method is cited as good practice by the Dfes (2003a). It could be argued that regular meetings, with rigorous analysis of students' writing, would provide the support that inexperienced tutors often need whilst also supplying evidence for audit and inspection. However, the practicalities of this approach, which could be quite time consuming, would have to be taken into consideration.

**Comment [Ic1]:** Clear statement at the beginning of the paragraph.

**Comment [Ic2]:** Avoiding absolute terms like: 'we should do this...'

**Comment [Ic3]:** More formal way of saying 'I think@

**Comment [Ic4]:** More formal way of sayin 'but' or 'on the other hand'.