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Cultivating the Skilled Imagination: Teaching Grammar through Creative Writing

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Poster Presentation ES

**CULTIVATING THE SKILLED IMAGINATION:
TEACHING GRAMMAR THROUGH CREATIVE WRITING**

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When teachers plan lessons around the mandated secondary English learning standards, consisting of skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening and research and aiming to focus on practical and academic language development, it is difficult to fit creative writing into the structured curriculum. This presentation will examine the need to teach grammar in relation to the benefits of teaching creative writing, an art that necessitates critical thinking skills the standards point toward developing, in an ELL classroom situated in a majority working-class, Mexican immigrant community on the West side of Chicago. Research has shown that encouraging creative writing in the classroom fosters community, confidence, and the use of the individual voice. This paper examines the reinforcement of grammar lessons through creative writing assignments. This study was completed using a qualitative self-study approach and included varying data collection methods such as field notes, informal interviews, student teaching, evaluations, and document gathering. The findings of this study indicate the challenges and potential positive outcomes of both incorporating creative writing into high school English classes and teaching grammar through creative means.