

Dear Friday Folk,

Writing.....yes, for sure it is the secondary form of language.
The oral part has primacy and oral messages are hugely more complex than written ones because of the parallel texts: the voice quality text (pitch, volume, tempo etc)

the facial text

the gestual and posture text

the musical phrasing text

the semantic text

the eye movement text (which reveals the inner perceptual mode of the speaker)

Yet we have to teach our students to write and to do this effectively we need to create a climate of writing, which is what I hope we will achieve this morning.

Central to any writing is the hope that some one will read what is written and not just a teacher creature with a red pen, who reads mainly for form, not content.

Almost any writer needs an audience and one she can feel and work to. Audience-less writing is extremely hard, and yet most of what I wrote in school in French, Spanish and Latin was without discernible addressee. Bizarre and demotivating.

As you finish this letter can I ask you to take a clean sheet of paper and write three paragraphs about your own handwriting.

Para 1 what you like about your script

Para 2 what you dislike about it

Para 3: Who, in your family, has handwriting like yours? In what specific ways is it similar?

Have a good week-end,

Warmly yours,



Mario.