



## *ESL Teacher Perspective:* **Using Progress Monitoring with English Language Learners**

Progress monitoring through startpaw.com is a quick write program. Teachers give explicit instructions to the students beforehand in how to complete the progress monitoring writing session. Students get online, and a prompt pops onto the screen. The students get one minute of think time and three minutes to write their ideas.

Teachers then access Educator Dashboard that allows them to see each time their students did a short write on startpaw.com. Teachers are able to see the individual writing prompt, student writing response, and a chart of their growth line with word scores.

ESL teachers comment that ELL students haven't had a lot of experience writing. The progress monitoring helps track individual writing stamina and thinking skills.

ESL teachers guide students in the progress monitoring routine, set goals, and target teaching for students to increase word counts and improve ideation while staying on topic. The short writes are not graded. Teachers and students see it as a 'personal competition' to do their best and improve their scores.

Teachers may create goal sheets for English language learners, i.e., setting a word count goal or word quality goal. Practicing keyboarding is a component. My students' comments include:

- It's important to set writing goals.
- Short writes help me concentrate on writing more.
- During the sessions, I read faster and type faster.
- Seeing my scores makes me want to work harder on writing for next time.