Steven Celi

ENC 1101

12:30

Perl, Sondra. “The Composing Processes of Unskilled College Writers.” *Research in the Teaching of English* 13.4 (1979): 191-215. Print.

Sondra Perl attempted to analyze unskilled writers, as a study that hasn’t gotten too much attention. She felt unskilled writers did not get enough credit in the research that was used to help actually teach unskilled writers. Her process consisted of “the students’ written products, their composing tapes, and their responses to the interview” (194). She wants the subjects to record themselves about their writing process and then carefully analyze every detail meticulously. She coded the participants recordings very specifically to be able to compare and make conclusions. She coded their talking, writing and reading. Lastly, Perl focuses on how her studies are implicated in teaching and research. Also how most teachers perceive unskilled writers and feel they can not learn from them.

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Unskilled writers can have a large impact from research on themselves. As Perl explains, they record every detail of their writing process and analyze it. I know that if I focus on improving my weak points, it will help my writing significantly and help me learn about myself. As Perl states, “Traditionally, these students have been labeled “remedial,” which usually implies that teaching ought to remedy what is “wrong” in their written products” (210). I agree with Perl because teachers can better understand how to help the students if they get feedback from the students about what they need help with. Every student is different and for a teacher trying to help all “unskilled writers” the same way, does not seem efficient.