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THE ART OF ENGLISH

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AATE/ALEA English Literacy National Conference 2018

Introducing our Keynote Presenters



Dominic Wyse

University College London, Institute of
Education (I.O.E)

The Donald Graves Address

Choice, voice and process: how writing should be taught in the 21st century

Traditional skills and drills teaching of writing was challenged in the 1980s by of 'one of the most seductive writers in the history of writing pedagogy'. Donald Graves' *process approach to writing*, as it came to be known, was popular in Australia, New Zealand, USA and the UK. At the heart of Graves' approach was learner choice, and the development of the writers' voice, enacted in a publication process in the classroom. However, one alleged weakness was the lack of research base for Graves' approach. In more that 30 years of research since then we have the opportunity to re-evaluate Graves' ideas.

This keynote talk examines research, theory, and practice in order to understand the continuing legacy of the process approach. New findings from a four year multidisciplinary study of writing are reported (*How Writing Works: From the birth of the alphabet to the rise of social media*: Cambridge University Press). The study included analyses of world-leading writers as well as novice writers. Creativity in writing was a major part of the study, including new empirical and theoretical findings. The originality of the study was also marked by a comparison of the composition of text with the composition of music.

The lessons from research for the teaching of writing and for curriculum policy are considered. The talk ends by addressing the implications for the process approach to writing, and hence Graves' contribution, in the 21st century.

More information and updates on the conference are available on our website at englishliteracyconference.com.au

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 Australian Association for the
Teaching of English



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