

**Sub theme:  
Digital trends**

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# **Improving Writing Skills through e-Portfolio**

**by Shiromi Upulaneththa**

## **Abstract**

In 'Improving Writing Skills through e-Portfolio', Shiromi Upulaneththa reports on research exploring a simple approach to improve English writing skills of pre-service teacher trainees through “e- portfolios”.

A pre-test conducted using a group of 30 trainee teachers of English, revealed that their writing skills were not up to the standard. This was addressed through a simple platform available in every mobile phone. First a WhatsApp group was created, and students asked to create a cover page with their profile. The intervention was done in two phases. In the first phase they had to upload a variety of writing activities starting with simple write ups such as paragraph writing, picture description, guided writing, autobiographies. Everyone uploaded their write-ups to the group and subsequently each write-up was edited by a peer adding his or her comments, suggestions and ideas. The second phase focused on academic writing through editing sample essays, writing reports and interpreting graphs. The same approach was implemented through the WhatsApp platform. During this period the trainees were observed to be enthusiastic and motivated. After three months everyone submitted the final editing to the WhatsApp group. Additionally, the trainees produced hardcopies. She reports that the trainees' feedback on this assignment indicates that the assignment was interesting and helpful in improving their writing skills. Furthermore, the post-test showed that there was a significant improvement in their writing skills.

She recommends that these findings and implications are replicated in other institutions in the future.