

School of Education Spring 2016 Colloquium Series



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The Effects of Home Language Use on English and Spanish Writing Growth in the Domains of Usage, Spelling, and Punctuation

April 12, 2016

1:00 Presentation

2:00 Discussion

Willard Hall 207

This colloquium will discuss a study in which 185 elementary school students were administered English and Spanish basic writing assessments once a year over four years, from second through fifth grade. This research revealed that students grew significantly in the areas of usage, spelling, and punctuation in both languages, but the rate of growth slowed over time.

In addition, the increased use of a language at home was associated with higher writing ability in the home language in fifth grade. Students with higher levels of exposure to Spanish at home also demonstrated a faster growth rate in their English writing development than those who spoke more English at home. However, the effect of the home language in Spanish writing development was much more varied.

Interested attendees are invited to read Howard, E. R. & Neugebauer, S. R. (2015). "Moving towards biliteracy: Varying paths of bilingual writers in two-way immersion programs." *Revista Miriada Hispanica*, 10, 83-106 in advance of the colloquium.

For more information, please see the
School of Education Colloquium Series webpage at
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