**TEACHING RECOUNT TEXT WRITING USING A TOPICAL APPROACH TO GRADE VIII STUDENTS OF STATE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL 42 PALEMBANG**

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**ABSTRACT**

This study evaluates the effectiveness of a topical approach in teaching recount text writing to eighth grade students at State Junior High School 42 Palembang. Using a quantitative pre-experimental design, this study took a sample of 34 students who underwent a pre-test and post-test to measure their writing ability. The results showed a significant increase in students' writing ability after using a topical approach. The average pre-test score was 52.5, with a range of scores between 31 and 68.5. After the intervention, the average post-test score increased to 75.7, with a range from 53 to 92.5. The t-test analysis showed that the t-value obtained was 13.31, exceeding the critical value of 1.692, which led to the rejection of the null hypothesis and the acceptance of the alternative hypothesis. During the pre-test, students had difficulty in generating ideas and grammatical accuracy. The post-intervention results showed that students became more proficient in generating ideas, using correct grammar, telling experiences, and expanding their vocabulary. Thus, the topical approach was proven effective in improving narrative text writing skills among eighth grade students of SMP Negeri 42 Palembang.

**Keywords: Teaching, Writing, Topical Approach**