Younger Learners are often reluctant to write more than a sentence, even though they are quite creative orally. This session aims to consider why they feel this way and how we, as teachers, can help to motivate students and prepare them for the demands of this skill.

This session aims to consider why Younger Learners in the 8-13 age group are reluctant to write more extended pieces of writing. It is designed to be a very practical session and will include lots of opportunities for participants to share their experiences and discuss solutions to the problem. It will also include practical demonstration of a number of writing activities which are considered suitable for this age group.

The session will begin with a group discussion about the aims of extended writing activities and encourage teachers to share information about the typical types of activities set. There will then be some consideration of common problems that Younger Learners of this age group tend to encounter when working on these types of activity. There will also be some discussion of the reasons for students’ lack of motivation.

Once the particular demands of this skill have been established, the session will go on with some group discussion focussed on ways of helping students to overcome the problems identified. There will also be demonstration of some motivating writing activities which can be used...
with this age group. These will be taken from a variety of sources and the demonstrations will include suggestions for how to set up this type of activity in class. Activities will range from ideas for writing simple paragraphs to more extended pieces.

Participants will also be given recommendations of sources of ideas for motivating writing activities.

Biographical note
I am an International House freelance teacher trainer and am currently working for International House in Buenos Aires on their Cambridge DELTA course. I have worked in Spain, Portugal, Hong Kong and Eastern Europe. I have run a number of teacher training courses for teachers of Younger Learners and have been involved in teacher training programmes for Portuguese state school teachers for the past four years.