

In learning English, the students have to master four English skills: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Among other skill, writing, as a productive skill, has an important role for the students. Writing is the ability to express ideas, thoughts, and knowledge in written language to make it clear, readable, and understandable to other.¹ It means that by having a good writing skill, student of vocational high school can easily get a job, for example, the students were able to write an application job in English. So, there are more opportunities for the students to get a job.

Writing skill for students of vocational high school was needed and very important, especially for the students who learn in administration major because it was related to letter administration. The students must be able to manage and respond letter that comes to the employer where they will work in the future.

Writing has been an important skill, but the students usually get some difficulties in writing. Harmer writes in his book entitled “The Practice of English language Teaching” that writing is complex.² In fact, there were three problems in writing that students usually have. The first problem was the organization of the writer’s ideas, the second problems was mastery of vocabulary, and the last was mastery of grammar. The first problem becomes

¹ Ristiyana Primadani, Thesis: “*The Effectiveness of Using Short Note in Teaching Writing at SMP Negeri 1 Bangsal Mojokerto*” (Surabaya: State Institute for Islamic Studies, 2011) 1

² Jeremy Harmer, *The Practice of English Language Teaching* (New York: Longman) 258

direct students in order to choose, find and create the ideas of writing and then developing students' ideas into understand. The process of guiding question was very useful to help the students to generate and organize ideas into a good composition of writing. So, the product of writing can easier understand by the reader.

In writing class, the teacher of SMK NU Lamongan usually focuses on the book in giving the material. The teacher never guides and helps the student to write. They just ask the students to write based on the book. It can make the students bored. By guiding question technique, it is expected that the students will find it fun and easy to write. This is because guiding question brings several many challenges that make students feel writing is easy activity. The students could also be directed in writing up.

This research was conducted in SMK NU Lamongan. As a national school (SSN, Sekolah Standart Nasional). SMK NU Lamongan has many achievements in English: become the first winner of regional speech for vocational high school and the third winner of regional news presenter. Despite this good achievement in speaking but the students of this are lacks in writing skill and have many problem in writing as reflected by the teacher in an interview presented earlier in this section.

With the background elaborated above, this research was going to be conducted to investigate "*The Effectiveness of Guiding Question to Improve*

