

IMPROVING WRITING PERFORMANCE: A STRATEGY FOR WRITING PERSUASIVE ESSAYS

CHALLENGE

- **Media:** Ms. Lin, a middle-school English teacher, has been working on persuasive writing with her students. After reviewing topic sentences and supporting sentences with her students for several days, Ms. Lin asks the students to write on a topic of their choice. She expects that students will be more persuasive and feel more ownership if they care about their paper topics. After grading the papers, Ms. Lin becomes concerned with some of her students' writing skills. She is especially surprised at the quality of the papers written by her students with learning disabilities. (movie)

INITIAL THOUGHTS

- What should Ms. Lin know in order to provide effective writing instruction?
- What could Ms. Lin do to help her students learn to write persuasive essays?

PERSPECTIVES AND RESOURCES

- Module Objectives (box)
 - After completing the entire Perspectives and Resources section and reviewing the accompanying activities, you should:
 - Recognize factors that contribute to students' difficulties with written expression
 - Define the components of written expression and their roles in writing instruction
 - Understand how to implement a writing strategy for persuasive essays

▶ Page 1: Understanding Difficulties With Written Expression

- Struggling Writers Versus Successful Writers (table)
- **Media:** Torri Lienemann talks about using baseline data (audio)
- *Link:* Malcolm's persuasive essay
- *Link:* Nakia's persuasive essay
- Research Shows... (box)

▶ Page 2: Prerequisites for Written Expression

- Effective communication involves two prerequisite skills
- Transcription Skills
 - **Media:** Steve Graham explains how students develop transcription skills.
 - How to adjust demands on students' transcription skills (bulleted list)
 - ◆ *Link:* Software programs
- Grammar Skills
- Requirements for communicating with good grammar (bulleted list)
- **Activity:** Timed writing simulation (box with link)
 - *Link:* Activate the timer

- **Media:** Natalie Olinghouse offers feedback about the writing activity (audio)
- **Media:** Natalie Olinghouse suggests ways to support students who struggle with writing (audio)

▶ **Page 3: Elements of the Writing Process**

- Four elements of the writing process (bulleted list)
- Planning
- Organizing
 - Steps of the organizing stage (bulleted list)
- Writing
 - Steps of the initial writing stage (bulleted list)
 - Writer's tip (box)
- Editing and Revising
 - Editing
 - ◆ Steps of the editing stage (bulleted list)
 - ◆ Self-editing
 - ◆ Peer-editing
 - ◆ Examples of peer-edited papers on the bulletin board (image)
 - *Link:* Description of the bulletin board
 - Revising
 - ◆ How to use editing suggestions to revise papers (bulleted list)

▶ **Page 4: POW+TREE Writing Strategy**

- *Link:* Research-validated strategy
- POW+TREE Strategy and Corresponding Activities (table)
- Editing Marks (image)

▶ **Page 5: POW+TREE Applications**

- Teaching POW+TREE
 - Using SRSD to teach POW+TREE
 - ◆ Advantages of SRSD (bulleted list)
 - ◆ Self-Regulated Strategy Development (box)
 - *Link:* Develop Background Knowledge
 - *Link:* Discuss the Strategy
 - *Link:* Model the Strategy
 - *Link:* Promote Memorization
 - *Link:* Paired instruction
 - *Link:* Support the Students
 - *Link:* Encourage Independent Practice
 - POW+TREE Strategy and Malcolm's Writing Samples (table)
 - ◆ *Link:* Malcolm's ideas
 - ◆ *Link:* Download the graphic organizer Ms. Lin uses
 - ◆ *Link:* Malcolm's graphic organizer

- *Link*: Click to view Malcolm’s first writing draft.
- o *Link*: Ms. Lin’s edits of Malcolm’s essay
- o *Link*: Malcolm’s second draft

🔍 Page 6: References, Additional Resources and Information

- References
- Additional Resources and Information

🔍 Page 7: Credits

- Content Experts
- Module Developers
- Module Production Team
- Module Production Support Team
- Media Production Team
- Media
- Expert Interviews

ASSESSMENT

- “Please complete the items below” (numbered questions)

WRAP UP

- Brief Summary
- **Media**: Torri Lienemann summarizes the benefits of implementing a writing strategy for students (audio)
- Think back to the Initial Thoughts questions (box)