

The Research Behind Spectrum® Writing

Writing is one of the most powerful forms of human inquiry and expression. The ability to clearly and cohesively articulate ideas through writing provides numerous benefits to learners during the school years and beyond. Practice and instruction in writing skills provide learners with the means to express themselves and communicate for nearly any purpose, while simultaneously supporting development of reading. Extensive opportunities to learn and engage in the writing process are recommended at every age.

Spectrum® Writing leverages 5 key research domains that are proven to help children acquire and retain knowledge:

- 1 Mechanics and Conventions of Writing
- 2 Content and Structure of Writing
- 3 Planning and Revision of Writing
- 4 Reading/Writing Reciprocity
- 5 Cross-Curricular Connections

5 Key Research Domains

Research has demonstrated*

Spectrum Writing offers

1 Mechanics and Conventions of Writing



When first learning to write, learners become aware of and adopt conventions and practices of writing. As learners progress into the middle grades, they build on this foundation as they begin to develop more complex competencies, such as ensuring consistency in verb tense, refining sentence structure, and building lists of references.

At every grade level, learners are provided with direct, clear instruction in the conventions and mechanics of writing across a wide array of text types and content areas. Examples are provided throughout, so that learners can refer to concrete models of how each skill may be applied during writing.

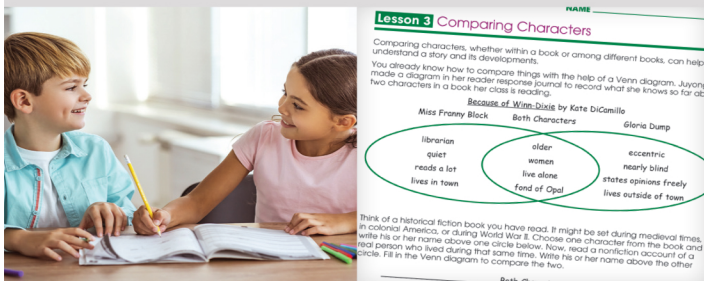
2 Content and Structure of Writing



Learners must also attend to the forms, structures, and content of the ideas they are trying to express. Forms in which these ideas are conveyed can vary, depending on subject area, genre of text, and the writer's purpose. Direct, explicit instruction and practice with both content and structure is key for developing writing competency.

Learners are provided with instruction, examples, and practice opportunities for writing a wide variety of text types. Practice exercises challenge learners at every age to use what they have learned to create their own written works on a variety of high-interest topics.

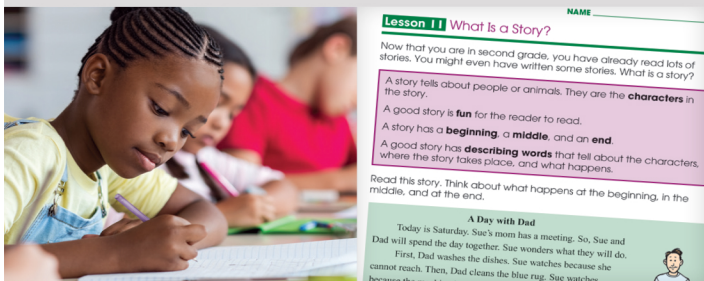
3 Planning and Revision of Writing



Writing is a complex and challenging task. Learners must simultaneously consider the conventions of language, the relationships between ideas, and even how a reader may perceive those ideas. To support this complexity, all learners benefit from clear instruction in planning and revision of their written works.

Graphic organizers, outlines, and other planning tools are provided to learners as they think about how to structure and create written works. Writers are encouraged to use familiar texts they have read, as well as modeled examples, to learn how to engage in the writing process from the idea stage through the final draft.

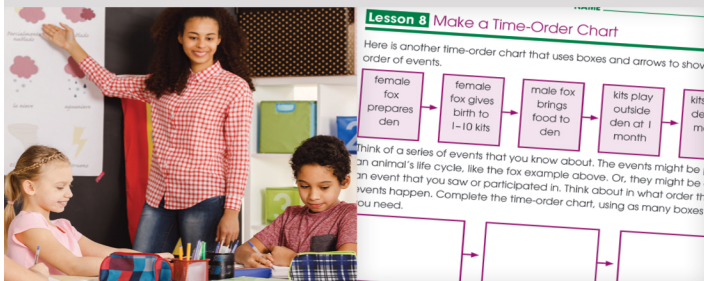
4 Reading/Writing Reciprocity



Reading/writing reciprocity is the term researchers use to describe the benefits that each process provides the other. That is, the act of reading can help develop writing skills, and the act of writing improves reading skills. Rather than thinking of each process as distinct from each other, effective reading and writing instruction allows both to be practiced together.

Exercises in each grade help learners make meaningful connections between reading and writing. In addition to offering opportunities to practice reading exemplary sample text, learners are encouraged to evaluate, correct, and rewrite example texts. In addition, learners are supported as they read and create their own original texts based on what was learned and read; all of which support reading/writing reciprocity.

5 Cross-Curricular Connections



Sometimes called “writing across the curriculum,” cross-curricular instruction supports students as they build connections between the concepts, skills, and relationships that connect all the subject areas. For example, studying a science passage during writing practice supports learning in both science and literacy.

Important concepts and relationships from a variety of subject areas are presented to learners as they practice and apply their writing skills. This promotes learning across subject areas, as well as helps learners understand how their writing skills can be applied to any content area.