



What Does Research Say About Learning How to Write?

The ability to write articulately gives one the power and opportunity to share and influence thoughts, ideas, and opinions with others. Brain research using neural imaging techniques demonstrates that speech is a very natural developmental process in humans; reading and writing require specific training to achieve development (Pugh et al., 2000). Teaching the writing process is one effective way to teach students to be good writers.

Research using the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) writing assessments is consistent, showing there is a direct correlation between writing proficiency and teaching through the writing process (National Center for Education Statistics, 1996).

The writing process- prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing, rewriting, then publishing – mirrors the way proficient writers write. GoWrite! is a successful tool that assists teachers when they're teaching the writing process and helps students to learn the writing process by breaking down the process into manageable steps (chunks), and allows students to focus on content and organization.

There is quite a bit of research that found that there is no basis that studying grammar improves one's writing quality (Braddock, Lloyd-Jones & Schoer, 1963; Elley, Barham, Lamb, & Wyllie, 1976). Hillocks did an exhaustive research review in 1987 and also found that studying grammar does not increase writing quality. Subsequent research shows that *skilled writers focus more on content and organization*, and less experienced writers are more concerned with writing mechanics (Hillocks, 1986).

Writing instruction today has moved from focusing on spelling and grammar, and other writing conventions to a holistic view emphasizing writing as a recursive process. Research shows that there is a direct correlation between instruction based on the writing process techniques and students' writing proficiency level. Research also indicates that skilled writers spend more time organizing and planning what they are going to write, and that this pre-writing stage is essential to produce quality writing.

Using GoWrite! with students allows students the ability to spend the time needed on this important pre-writing stage while they organize and plan what they are going to write. Your students will become skilled writers across the curriculum.

References

- Braddock, R., Loyd-Jones, R., & Schoer, L. (1963) *Research in written composition*, Urbana IL: National Council of Teachers of English.
- Elley, W., Barham, H., Lamb, H. & Wyllie, M. (1976). The role of grammar in secondary school English curriculum. *New Zealand Journal of Educational Studies*, 10 (1), 26-42.
- Graves, D. H. (1991). *Writing: Teachers and children at work*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann
- Hillocks, G. (1986) *Research on written composition* (Urbana, IL: National Conference on Research in English and ERIC Clearinghouse on Reading and Communication Skills), Chapter 1.
- National Center of Education Statistics. (1996). Can students benefit from process writing? (NCES 96-845). NAEP-ACTS, 1(3). Washington, DC, Available: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs96/web/96845.asp>
- Pugh, K.R., Mencl, W.E., Jenner, A. R., Katz, L., Frost, S.J., Lee, J.R., Shaywitz, S.E., & Shaywitz, B.A.(2000). Neurobiological studies of reading and reading disability. *Journal of Communication Disorders*, 34, 479-492.

GoWrite! and the Common Core State Standards

GoWrite! is fully aligned with the new Common Core State Standards and will aid students in the development of their writing from grades K-12.

GoWrite! will help your students achieve writing success in the following CCSS:

- ELA College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing
 - CCRA.W.1-10
- ELA College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Language
 - CCRA.L.1-2
- ELA Writing Standards
 - Kindergarten: W.K.6
 - Grade 1: W.1.1-3, W.1.5-6
 - Grade 2: W.2.1-3, W.2.5-6
 - Grade 3: W.3.1a-d, W.3.2a-d, W.3.3a-d, W.3.4-6
 - Grade 4: W.4.1a-d, W.4.2a-e, W.4.3a-e, W.4.4-6, W.4.10
 - Grade 5: W.5.1a-d, W.5.2a-e, W.5.3a-e, W.5.4-6, W.5.10
 - Grade 6: W.6.1a-e, W.6.2a-f, W.6.3a-e, W.6.4-6, W.6.10
 - Grade 7: W.7.1a-e, W.7.2a-f, W.7.3a-e, W.7.4-6, W.7.10
 - Grade 8: W.8.1a-e, W.8.2a-f, W.8.3a-e, W.8.4-6, W.8.10
 - Grade 9-10: W.9-10.1a-e, W.9-10.2a-f, W.9-10.3a-e, W.9-10.4-6, W.9-10.10
 - Grade 11-12: W.11-12.1a-e, W.11-12.2a-f, W.11-12.3a-e, W.11-12.4-6, W.11-12.10
- ELA Standards for Language
 - Kindergarten: L.K.2a-d
 - Grade 1: L.1.1a-j and L.1.2a-e
 - Grade 2: L.2.1a-f, L.2.2a-e, L.2.3-a
 - Grade 3: L.3.1a-l, L.3.2a-g, L.3.3a-b
 - Grade 4: L.4.1a-g, L.4.2a-d, L.4.3a-c
 - Grade 5: L.5.1a-e, L.5.2a-e, L.5.3a-b
 - Grade 6: L.6.1a-e, L.6.2a-b, L.6.3a-b
 - Grade 7: L.7.1a-c, L.7.2a-b, L.7.3a
 - Grade 8: L.8.1a-d, L.8.2a-c, L.8.3a
 - Grade 9-10: L.9-10.1a-b, L.9-10.2a-c, L.9-10.3a
 - Grade 11-12: L.11-12.1a-b, L.11-12.2a-b, L.11-12.3a
- Grades 6-12 Writing Standards in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects
 - Grade 6-8: WHST.6-8.1a-e, WHST.6-8.2a-f, WHST.6-8.4-6, WHST.6-8.10
 - Grade 9-10: WHST.9-10.1a-e, WHST.9-10.2a-f, WHST.9-10.4-6, WHST.9-10.10
 - Grade 11-12: WHST.11-12.1a-e, WHST.11-12.2a-e, WHST.11-12.4-6, WHST.11-12.10

GoWrite! Quick Reference

Set up/Admin

- Set up an admin account. The admin account will have the ability to add and delete student profiles and associated papers.
 - Enter a name in the Admin window. You will be taken to “My Account” page to set up a username and password.
 - You may edit the name at any time by tapping on “My Info” and enter the new information.
- Set up Student accounts.
 - On the home screen, tap on any of the student windows, enter the student name, and press enter on the keyboard. The student names will save.
 - You may edit student names in the “My Account” screen by tapping on “My Info”
 - Tap on any of the student names to get started writing essays with GoWrite!
- Deleting User
 - An Admin may delete a student account by swiping across the window with the student name, tapping the confirm button, and entering the admin password.
- Changing Title
 - On the “My Saved Papers” screen, click on the blue arrow and a new screen will pop up asking if you would like to change the title of your paper.
- Help Tips
 - On each screen of the GoWrite! App, you will find buttons for “help” and “writing tips”. Click on these to help you in each of the screens and to help you with the writing process.

New Paper

- Level
 - Click on the “I” button next to level to discover which level you should choose for your paper.
- Title
 - Enter the title of your paper. You can change it later if necessary.
- Selecting Paper Type and Style
 - What is your assignment? Match your assignment with the types listed:
 - Narrative, Expository, Persuasive, and Descriptive

The Writing Process

- Pre-Writing: Please visit our website for graphic organizers to help you organize your ideas: www.commoncorewritinghelp.com
- Draft, Revise, Edit, Publish: For each of these stages of the writing process, use the “writing tips” in the upper left corner to help you through each stage.
- For more information on the writing process, please visit our website: www.commoncorewritinghelp.com

How do I get started with GoWrite! ?

- ❖ Set up an admin account. Through the admin account will have the ability to add and delete student profiles and associated papers
 - Enter a name in the Admin window. You will be taken to “My Account” page to set up a username and password
 - You may edit the name at any time by tapping on “My Info” and entering the new information
- ❖ Set up student accounts
 - On the home screen, tap on any of the student windows, enter the student name, and press enter on the keyboard. The student name will save
 - You may edit student names in the “My Account” screen by tapping on “My Info”
 - Tap on any of the student names to start writing essays with GoWrite!
 - An Admin may delete a student account by swiping across the window with the student name, tapping the confirm button, and entering the admin password

How do I start writing an essay with GoWrite! ?

- ❖ Tap on a student name to go to the “My Account” page
- ❖ Select “New Paper” at the top right corner of the navigation bar
- ❖ In the “New Paper” screen:
 - Enter the title of your essay
 - Choose one of the 4 rhetorical types: Narrative, Expository, Persuasive, or Descriptive
 - At the bottom of the screen, you will see subsets of each style. Make sure you choose the right style for your essay.
 - Choose a custom level. Custom level refers to the number of paragraphs in the essay. In general, elementary students’ essays contain fewer paragraphs than high school students’ essays; however, one or two paragraph essays can be very effective at any level depending on the assignment
 - Level 1-2: One paragraph with an optional conclusion
 - Level 3-6: Two paragraphs with an optional conclusion
 - Level 7-9: Three paragraphs with a required conclusion
 - Level 10-12: Four paragraphs with a required conclusion
- ❖ Once all the above information has been entered, tap the “Go” button

How do I start the writing process with GoWrite! ?

- ❖ As you move through the writing process, you will notice that the pencil graphic in the top right corner will fill depending on what part of the writing process you are working on
- ❖ Before you begin drafting your essay, please make sure you have completed your pre-write. For pre-writing help, tap on the pre-write icon in the “New Paper” screen, tap on the graphic organizer you wish to use and print the graphic organizer and complete. For additional help, visit our website and check out pre-writing graphic organizers.

❖ Drafting Stage

- In the Draft stage, you will see paragraph(s) with main idea, major support idea, and detail boxes. Tap the main idea box in the first paragraph to begin writing. The box will expand to accommodate the amount of text you write.
- Helpful tips are provided on the screen to assist you through the writing process.
 - “FAQ” button in the upper left hand corner: This feature will give you links to our website where you will find help you with various parts of the writing process.
 - “Writing Tips” button in the upper left hand corner: This button will open a new window and give you helpful tips for the stage of writing you are working in.
 - “I” button next to paragraph labels: press this button to review the purpose of this section.
 - “t” button at the far right of each section” press this button to view suggested transition words.
- As you draft, you will notice green checks appear next to each paragraph once you have included information in each level of each paragraph.
- Tap on the “Share” button: You may print or email your essay at any stage in the writing process.
- Tap “Next” to enter the Revise stage of the writing process. Please note that once you tap Next, you will not be able to return to the Draft stage.

❖ Revise Stage

- The Revise stage is where you will rework your essay. You will be able to add details, rework ideas, rearrange, replace, and change words and phrases in this stage.
- The “Writing Tips” features is also available in this stage and is focused on the revision process.
- To revise a paragraph, simply tap on the paragraph and it will open into sections. You are able to add details, rearrange, etc.
- You will also notice that each level of the paragraph is color coded; the legend is at the bottom of the screen.
- Tap on the “Share” button: You may print or email your essay at any stage in the writing process.
- If you need to stop writing at any point, simply close the App and your essay will be saved
- When you have completed revising your essay, tap next to go on to the edit stage. Please note that you cannot return to the revise stage once you tap Next.

❖ Edit Stage

- In the Edit stage, you will be working on the finer details of your essay.
- The FAQ information that is available in previous stages is also available to you in the Edit stage Tapping the “Writing Tips” button will provide tips focused on the Edit stage of the writing process.
- You are able to share your essay in this stage of the writing process by printing or emailing
- When you have finished editing your essay, tap next to go on to the Publish stage. Please note that you cannot return to the Edit stage once you tap Next.

- ❖ Publish Stage
 - This is the last stage of the writing process and your final opportunity to make changes to your essay
 - When you are ready to publish, tap the Publish button. You will see a green check appear. You will now have the option to email or print your essay
 - You will always have the option of sharing-republishing your essay by tapping on your essay in the My Account screen
- ❖ Papers in progress
 - If you need to stop writing at any point during the writing process, your essay will be saved
 - In the “My Account” screen, your essay will show the current stage you are working on. Tap on the essay and you will be taken back to your previous stage in the writing process.

GoWrite! & Common Core State Standards (CCSS): How does GoWrite! Support the teaching and learning of CCSS?

GoWrite! is designed to support learning the writing process, which follows the sequence of pre-writing to drafting, to revising, to editing to publishing. GoWrite! does not take the role of the teacher, rather it supports the teaching and learning of developing good writing habits and following the correct writing process sequence. This sequence, pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing should also be followed when writing in other academic areas as well such as the Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Formal Sciences, Professions and applied sciences.

- ❖ In references from “Pathways to the Common Core” Calkins, Ehrenworth, Lehman, Chapter 6
 - Overview of the Writing Standards
 - “..In the Common Core State Standards, writing is treated as an equal partner to reading, and more than this, writing is assumed to be the vehicle through which a great deal of reading work and reading assessments will occur”.
 - “The Standards acknowledge the fact that whereas some writing skills, such as the ability to plan, revise, edit and publish, are applicable to many types of writing, other skills are more properly defined in terms of specific writing types: arguments, information, explanatory texts and narratives”.
 - “The standards themselves are organized in a way that highlights the demands these three broad categories of writing place on the writer. The first standard delineates expectations for opinion and argument writing, the second, for informational writing, the third for narrative writing. Although these three “types of writing” standards represent just under a third of the ten standards, if one were to count the pages devoted to the writing standards and count the pages devoted to explicating the three types of writing, one would find that these first three standards occupy fully half of the CCSS for writing”.

If you would like to print FAQ for reference, open FAQ on the Accounts screen and tap on the Print button top left. For additional information, visit us at: gowriteapp.com.