

Making the Transition: The Evolution of Writing Instruction

Introducing the new Writing A-Z! Built from the ground up and based on the latest research and best practices, this new writing solution will replace WritingCity as Learning A-Z's sole writing solution, beginning in September 2023.

Learn about the differences between these two solutions, and see how the new Writing A-Z will enhance writing instruction and practice in your K-5 classroom!

WritingCity®

Writing instruction & practice for students



BUILT TO

Support educators with the lessons needed to effectively teach writing, and function as a stand-alone writing program



BEST FOR

All students in Grades K-5

Optimal Use Case:

Step-by-step writing instruction; Lesson plans that integrate text types and production of writing standards

NEW Writing A-Z

Flexible K-5 writing curriculum designed to make writing instruction easier for teachers and more engaging for students



BUILT TO

Empower educators with the confidence and tools necessary to effectively teach writing and function as a stand-alone or supplemental writing program, or as a complement to any core literacy plan



BEST FOR

All students in Grades K-5

Optimal Use Case:

Explicit writing instruction and targeted writing practice; Time-saving lesson plans that integrate text types, purpose, and production of writing standards; Ready-to-use resources and materials that reduce teacher preparation time



Writing instruction & practice for students



Flexible K-5 writing curriculum designed to make writing instruction easier for teachers and more engaging for students

Compare Solutions

What's Included

1 Teacher License + 36 Student Licenses/classroom

- Core writing curriculum
- Student digital writing platform
- Captivators
- Scope & sequence
- Grade level lessons
- Graphic organizers, checklists, and rubrics (printable)
- Reference texts
- Digital student resources and interactive practice opportunities

Content Formats



Online, Printable

Instructional Setting

Whole group, small group, digital independent practice

What's Included

1 Teacher License + 36 Student Licenses/classroom

- Core writing curriculum
- Comprehensive reporting
- Pre/Post unit assessments
- Embedded professional development
- Student digital writing tool (WaLT)
- Writing and Grammar Packs
- Systematic, sequential, cumulative scope & sequence
- Explicit, grade level lessons
- Graphic organizers, checklists, and rubrics (printable and digital formats)
- Reference texts
- Digital student resources and interactive practice opportunities

Content Formats



Online, Mobile, Printable, Projectable

Instructional Setting

Whole group, small group, digital independent practice

Instructional Details

Product Information

Grades Covered

K-5

Scope & Sequence

Systematic; Follows complete scope & sequence

Product Information

Grades Covered

K-5

Scope & Sequence

Systematic; Follows complete scope & sequence

Writing instruction & practice for students

Skills in Focus

Critical Thinking: Generating Ideas; Gathering/ Organizing Information; Drafting, Revising; Editing

Organization and Structure: Opinion, Informative, and Narrative Structure; Paragraph and Essay Structure; Transition Words

Writing Craft & Elaboration:
Word Choice, Figurative Language

Grammar: Sentence Rearranging, Combining, Elaboration; Conventions

Self-regulation: Sentence Rearranging, Combining, Elaboration; Conventions

Correlations



Instructional Sequence

Madeline Hunter Lesson Plan Model: Anticipatory Set, Input, Check for Understanding, Guided Practice, Independent Practice, Closure

Adaptive



Placement Test



Cumulative Review

Students go through the writing process once through a series of writing lessons; a formal writing assessment at the end of each unit

Writing Instruction/Implementation

1 Getting Ready for Writing Unit; 4 Genre/Process Units (2 Narrative, Informative, Opinion); 1 Research Writing Unit
Lessons within units align with the writing process. Students go through the writing process twice within each narrative, informative, and opinion Unit (6 times over the course of the program); some grades include optional Response Writing lessons.

Flexible K-5 writing curriculum designed to make writing instruction easier for teachers and more engaging for students

Skills in Focus

Critical Thinking: Generating Ideas; Gathering/ Organizing Information; Drafting, Evaluating; Revising; Editing

Organization and Structure: Opinion, Informative, and Narrative Structure; Paragraph and Essay Structure; Linking, Transition, and Temporal Words

Writing Craft & Elaboration: Types of Details, Word Choice, Figurative Language, Awareness of Audience, Task, and Purpose

Grammar: Sentence Rearranging, Combining, Elaboration; Conventions

Self-regulation: Goal setting, Self-monitoring, Self-evaluation, Self-instruction, Self-reinforcement

Correlations



Aligned to individual state standards

Instructional Sequence

Gradual Release Model: Set the Stage, I Do & Check for Understanding, We Do, You Do, Closure

Adaptive



Placement Test



Cumulative Review

In each unit, skills spiral in modules 2 - 4 as students go through the writing process three times; in module 5, students choose a piece of writing to publish

Writing Instruction/Implementation

1 Writing Community Unit; 3 Genre/Process Units (Opinion, Informative, Narrative)
Five Modules in each Genre/Process Unit:
• Module 1 is genre study
• Modules 2-4 increase in rigor and take students through the writing process
• Module 5 is publish, present, and self-reflect
Lessons within modules align with the writing process. Students go through the writing process 4 times within a Unit (12 times over the course of the program).



Writing instruction & practice for students

Grammar Instruction

Grammar instruction is in the context of process writing lessons; Grammar videos and games

Interactivity

Captivators

Engagers

Grammar Skill Videos and Games

Kids Writing Library

NEW



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Grammar Instruction

Grammar instruction is in the context of process writing lessons

Grammar Skill practice is automatically assigned via grade level Grammar Packs:

- Instructional Grammar Video
- 2 to 3 Grammar Interactivities
- Autoscored
- Data Collection & Reports

All grade level grammar resources can be assigned to students for supplemental practice

Interactivity

WaLT Lessons

Writing Skill Videos and Interactivities

Grammar Skill Videos and Interactivities

Process Writing Packs

Build-a-Book

Kids Writing Library

Teacher Experience

Teacher Role

Teachers deliver the lesson digitally using the available lesson plans; Teachers can assign Captivators (digital versions of the entire lesson) for students to learn without teacher intervention

Lesson Plans

Step-by-step instructions; Some materials are premade and available as PDFs; Links to interactivities when available; Flexible delivery

Embedded Professional Development

(Outdated) On-Demand Videos

Reports

Enrollment, Assignment Progress, Student Activity

Teacher Role

Teachers are at the heart of instruction
Teachers gradually release responsibility to students while supporting them during independent writing time either through small group instruction or conferencing

Lesson Plans

Clear, explicit, step-by-step instruction for each stage in the Gradual Release of Responsibility model

Ready to use materials (print and digital use) are located in each lesson: teacher cheat sheet, graphic organizers, checklists, rubrics, student practice and reference texts

Flexible delivery- steps can span multiple days

Embedded Professional Development

Read and Research (articles), Put into Practice (coaching videos), Learn from Experts (subject matter expert videos), and Listen & Learn (audio), support teachers at point-of-use

Reports

Student Activity, Enrollment, Assignments, Student Progress, Skills, Interactivities/Games



Writing instruction & practice for students



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Student Experience

Practice

Digital and printable student-facing practice through a digital writing notebook, grammar videos, and skill interactives

Assessments

Formal writing assessments at the end of each genre unit

Feedback

Students can receive written feedback from the teacher in the Digital Writing Notebook

Engagement

Digital Writing Notebook supports students who are using a digital tool to write, or using the Captivators to complete assignments without teacher instruction

Practice

Digital and printable student-facing practice through WaLT, interactivities, assignable writing and grammar instruction, grammar packs, and writing packs

Assessments

Pre- and post-assessments are included for each genre unit (2-4)

Module 5 in each unit is a formal writing assessment. The writing process lessons (modules 2-4 in each unit) provide formative assessment opportunities via the use of revision and editing checklists and genre-specific rubrics

The scores from the interactivities in the Writing Skill Packs and Grammar Packs provide a snapshot of students' performance on specific writing and grammar skills

Feedback

In WaLT, students can receive both audio and written feedback from the teacher within Kids A-Z; Interactivities provide immediate student feedback

Standards-measuring, progress-monitoring assessments help teachers provide timely and actionable feedback based on "Look Fors" under the You Do: Independent Practice & Teacher Conferencing section (in each lesson plan) provides targeted talking points for teachers to use when providing actionable and timely feedback during conferencing

Engagement

WaLT (Writing and Learning Together) supports students who are learning to manage multiple materials while at the same time, learning to use a digital writing tool

Kids A-Z platform provides incentives to support progress tracking, engagement, and motivation and manages assignments, grades, and student writing

To learn more, contact your local Sales Representative.