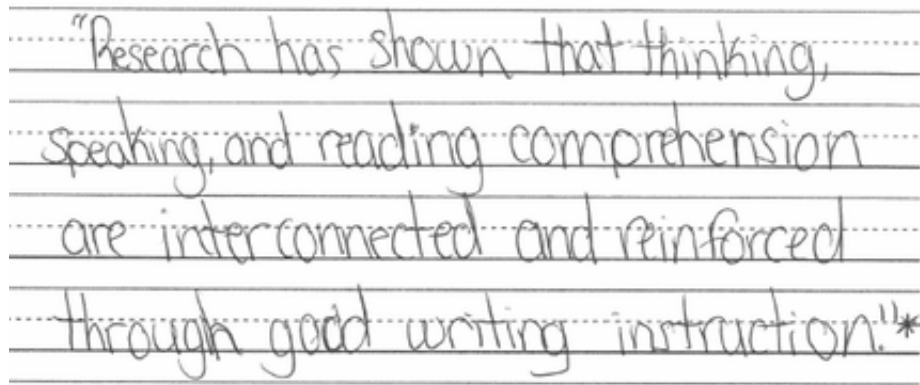


Literacy How-To: Write to Comprehend



* Tyre, P. (October 2012). The writing revolution. *The Atlantic*, 96-101.

The Challenges and Rewards of Teaching Written Expression

Writing is "acquired the latest, mastered by the fewest, and learned with the most effort over the longest period of time" (Johnson & Myklebust, 1967). Writing instruction is demanding for both students and teachers. Writers need a broad range of skills to translate decontextualized spoken language into meaningful written text. These include transcription skills—handwriting and keyboarding, spelling, and writing conventions—as well as higher level text generation—ideation; facility with vocabulary and syntax; and executive functions for planning/organizing, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing/presenting—all orchestrated through self-regulation!

By empowering students with deeper understanding, teaching writing yields a harvest far richer than cogent prose. Writing has a positive impact on reading fluency and reading comprehension (Graham & Hebert, 2010, 2011), as well as developing students' abilities to think critically. "Writing is the most disciplined form of thinking. It allows us to be precise, to stand back and examine what we have thought, to see what our words mean, to see if they stand up to our own critical eye, make sense, will be understood by someone else..." (Graves, 1993).

Write On!

The Institute of Education Sciences offers the following recommendations in the Practice Guide Teaching Elementary School Students to Become Effective Writers: Provide an hour of daily writing instruction and practice, integrated across subjects. Teach students to write for a variety of purposes. Be sure to

include lessons on higher-order language skills, as well as systematic instruction in lower-level transcription skills. And create an engaged community of writers—teachers included!

Click on [Written Expression](#) to learn more about writing instruction.

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Our Mission is to EMPOWER TEACHERS to ensure that every child learns to read by third grade.

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