



Write for Texas

An Overview of Resources to Support Effective Writing Instruction at the Secondary Level

What Is Write for Texas?

Write for Texas is designed to help all teachers provide opportunities for students to **read**, **write**, and **discuss** a wide variety of genres throughout the school year.

The Write for Texas collection of online resources is available to all secondary English language arts and reading and content area teachers to support effective writing instruction. The resources include critical background knowledge, activities, and videos that relate to the guiding principles of effective writing instruction. Participants learn and apply teaching techniques to support all students in writing.

To access the resources and materials, visit <http://writefortexas.org>.

Who Benefits From Using Write for Texas?

Ultimately, secondary students benefit because all teachers have access to valuable resources that support effective writing instruction.

How Can the Resources be Used?

Teachers, coaches, mentors, and administrators can access resources that meet specific needs. Teachers deepen knowledge about effective writing instruction, view models, and engage in activities to enhance their practices.

Do the Resources Need to be Completed in One Session?

No. The resources are meant to be “standalone” resources that teachers can access at multiple times. Each resource consists of different sections, and these sections may be completed in a single session or over multiple sessions. Resources have an approximate time given for completion, but these times are only suggestions. Teachers may work at their own pace.





What Are the Write for Texas Guiding Principles of Effective Writing Instruction?











GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE WRITING INSTRUCTION

1. Use writing and reading to support student learning in all content areas.
2. Teach students the thinking skills, processes, and knowledge needed to write effectively.
3. Teach students skills for writing effective sentences in order to create coherent texts.
4. Provide extra assistance and instruction to students who experience difficulty learning to write.

What Are the Big Ideas of Write for Texas?

-  Reading **and** writing should be integrated into every class to support learning.
-  Writing instruction includes explicit teaching and opportunities for students to practice daily.
-  Purposeful teacher modeling supported with think-alouds helps students see and hear the process of writing.
-  Students need to see and be able to access appropriate models of writing and to have opportunities to integrate what they learn from teaching and modeling, as well as reading, into their own writing.

What Are Some Examples of Classroom Practices That Support These Principles and Big Ideas?

-  Integrating reading and writing in all classes
-  Providing appropriate models
-  Using teacher think-alouds
-  Providing opportunities to write in response to reading
-  Scheduling brief and extended practice opportunities
-  Teaching grammar in context
-  Teaching note-taking skills
-  Teaching informal and formal writing practices

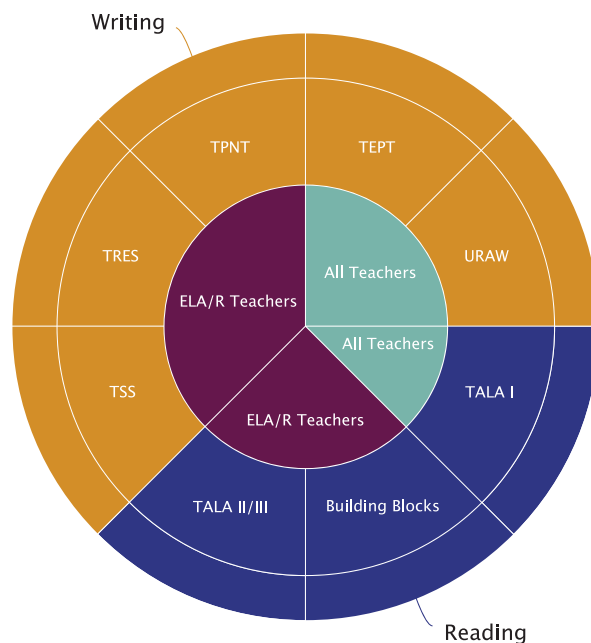
What Write for Texas Online Resources Are Available?

All Teachers

- TALA I: Online Texas Adolescent Literacy Academy Tier I
- TEPT: Teaching Expository and Persuasive Texts
- URAW: Using Reading and Writing to Support Learning

English Language Arts and Reading Teachers

- Building Blocks for Teaching Adolescents With Reading Difficulties
- TALA II/III: Online Texas Adolescent Literacy Academy Tiers II and III
- TPNT: Teaching Personal Narrative Texts
- TRES: Teaching Revising and Editing Skills
- TSS: Teaching Sentence Skills



The color-coded online tool shown at right, on the Write for Texas website at <https://www.writefortexas.org/resources/professional-development-to-support-academic-writing-resources>, illustrates the relationship between writing and reading resources, which resources are applicable for all secondary teachers, and which resources are most applicable for English language arts and reading (ELA/R) teachers. Links allow users to access available resources.

What Is Included in the Online Resources?

Handouts

- Classroom teacher handouts: Instructional practices for teachers to use as they plan and implement reading and writing instruction in their content area classrooms
- Classroom templates: Masters for students to use and keep in writing folders or notebooks
- Professional connection handouts: Informative materials for teachers that provide background and research-based information related to effective content area reading and writing instruction
- Online activity handouts: Materials for teachers to use as they complete online practice activities and view related videos

Activities

- Online practice activities: Opportunities for teachers to practice the reading and writing strategies
- Classroom teaching activities: Opportunities for teachers to try the strategies in the classroom and think about how to incorporate the instructional practices into their content area curriculum
- Reflection opportunities: Journals for teachers to think about and record responses to reflection questions and ideas for classroom implementation

Strategies and Suggestions

- Ideas for supporting adolescent English language learners
- Ideas for supporting adolescent students with learning difficulties
- Tips for integrating reading and writing activities into content area classrooms

Videos








For introducing and explaining instructional strategies, providing examples, and facilitating online activities

Other Tools

An online companion workbook for each resource can be accessed and downloaded online. It serves as an optional guide for participants as they work through each online resource. The workbook includes copies of the handouts for each resource, a brief explanation of how teachers use the handouts as they complete activities and view videos, and tips for incorporating some of the materials and strategies in the classroom.

Facilitator guides for each Write for Texas resource are also available online for coaches, mentors, and administrators to help support secondary teachers as they work through applicable Write for Texas online resources and integrate the ideas and strategies in their curriculum. The guide includes a brief description of each resource and outlines the big ideas, learner objectives, suggested time, and participant materials and activities. Coaching opportunities are embedded throughout the guides.

What Are Some Examples of Online Resource Activities?

-  **Practice** by writing for one minute for each of three quick writing rounds when provided with a choice of two prompt words. **Reflect** on how you could use the activity in your classroom and how it would benefit your students.
-  **Model** strategies for teaching conventions in context. Model how to **notice** conventions in mentor text and **imitate** conventions by using sentence stems.
-  **Select** a sample text you use in your classroom and **identify** the genre, text type, examples of text structures, and organizational patterns.
-  **Watch** a video of a teacher modeling a think-aloud. **Select** a text and **develop** a think-aloud to **model** the stages of reading for your students.
-  **Read** an informational article and **practice** taking notes by using the Notes Framework handout.
-  **Review** authentic writing purposes and **identify** the ones you already use with your students.
-  **Reflect** on how you will explicitly model using guidelines for reading and understanding essay prompts and assignments. **Record** your thoughts in your teaching journal.

How Can Write for Texas Help You?

If you are a **science, social studies, or mathematics teacher**, Write for Texas will help you integrate writing into your reading assignments by equipping you with strategies, models, informal and formal writing activities, and techniques for supporting students who struggle.

If you are an **English language arts and reading teacher**, you will learn valuable ways to teach specific skills in your classes, to integrate writing and reading into all your instruction, and to collaborate with your colleagues who teach in other content areas.

If you are a **coach who works with secondary teachers**, Write for Texas will provide you with additional resources and concrete examples of ways to integrate reading and writing.

If you are an **administrator**, you will deepen your understanding of how writing and reading can and should be integrated into all classes and learn additional ways to support your teachers.

Think about your practices. Could you enhance them?

Do you provide opportunities for students to **read, write, and discuss** a wide variety of genres throughout the school year?

Delve into the resources to discover how to do just that!
