

PLATO[®] Essential Writing Process and Practice

Grade Level: 3–4
Target Audience: Middle/High School/Adult (remedial)
Audio Support: Yes

Product Features

- 26 discrete learning objectives
- Two courses: Writing Strategies and Grammar & Mechanics
- Offline activities for the Writing Strategies components
- Rubrics to evaluate writing
- Real-life scenarios and sources of information
- Tutorials, application, mastery tests, and offline activities
- Audio support in the tutorial
- Interactive glossary and notebook

Product Benefits

- Follows NCTE and McREL guidelines
- Demonstrates writing strategies using a "think-aloud" approach
- Teaches learner to write for different audiences and purposes
- Teaches conventions of written language that aid communication
- Promotes critical thinking skills
- Develops confidence in writing
- Helps learner meet high-stakes test requirements

Online Features

Notebook—allows learner to type, save, and print notes

Glossary—provides definition of terms (Grammar and Mechanics only)

Menu Icons

Jump—allows learner to move to the following components: objective, study, practice, and certificate (Grammar and Mechanics)

Jump—allows learner to move to the following components: writer, objective, tutorial, strategy, map, and certificate (Writing Strategies)

Refresh—allows learner to refresh the screen

Help—offers start-over option

Transcript—allows learner to view and listen to a transcript read by a narrator or mentor (Strategies)

Audio—allows learner to turn audio off and on

Left arrow—allows learner to return to the previous screen

Right arrow—allows learner to proceed to the next screen

Exit—allows learner to stop and exit the module

Reference Materials (Refer to PLATO Documentation CD)

PLATO Curriculum Guide—Essential Writing Process and Practice

PLATO Curriculum Guide—Essential Writing Process and Practice—Offline

PLATO Curriculum Guide—Essential Writing Process and Practice—Imple



Getting Started

- Refer to the PLATO Curriculum Guide—Essential Writing Process and Practice to review the implementation components and models.
- Preview the Writing Strategies and Grammar & Mechanics courseware modules.

Lesson Progression

Writing Strategies

- Tutorial 1—teaches background concepts and links strategies to real-world scenarios
- Tutorial 2—teaches the writing strategy
- Tutorial 3—extends the writing strategy and exposes common misconceptions
- Offline Activity—provides a writing assignment to check understanding of the strategy

Grammar & Mechanics

- Tutorial—introduces and teaches grammar and mechanics concepts (not scored)
- Application—reinforces grammar and mechanics concepts covered in the tutorial (scored)
- Mastery Test—assesses mastery of concept (scored)

Assessment

- Assign the mastery test as a pretest to determine placement in Grammar & Mechanics.
- Use the offline activities to identify learning gaps relative to the concepts taught.
- Use a state or local assessment to further identify and prioritize instructional needs.

Implementation Strategies

Use the following implementation models described in the PLATO Curriculum Guide—Essential Writing Process and Practice to effectively incorporate the writing strategies:

- Document Centered
- Collaborative Learning
- Pre-Teaching
- Class Demonstration
- Computer Sequenced
- Teacher Training

Evaluation

- Generate reports to track learner progress and measure gains.
- Discuss report data with learner to determine next steps.
- Collect and evaluate learner portfolios that include writing samples.
- Use offline activities and rubrics as extension exercises to evaluate learner performance.

Extension Exercises

- Direct the learner to create mini-lessons and model the “think-aloud” approach to explain the writing strategy used.
- Set up a peer review to model writing strategies in small groups.
- As a follow up, schedule a conference with individual learners to review and evaluate written responses.

Curriculum Structure

Curriculum



Essential Writing Process and Practice

Course



Grammar and Mechanics (Level DD)

Module



Capitalizing Titles of People

Tutorial

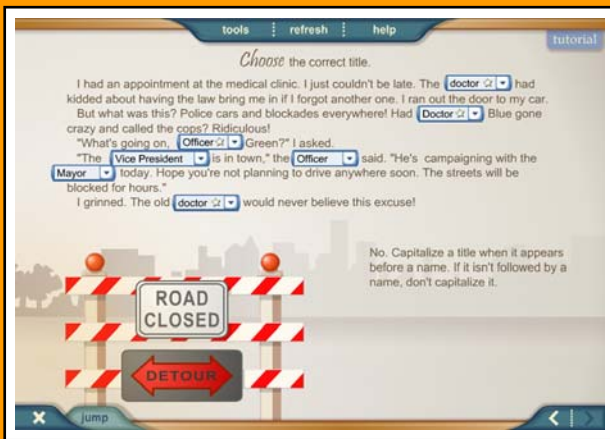
Application

Mastery Test

For more information, please call 800.44.PLATO or visit www.plato.com

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Essential Writing Process and Practice Interactions

Writing Strategies and Grammar and Mechanics are equipped with an assortment of interaction types. These include the following:

- Drop Downs
- Click to Hear
- Click in Passage
- Multiple Choice and Fill-In Questions
- Drag and Drops
- Click to See a Fix
- Passage Highlighter

Essential Writing Process and Practice

Course Levels	Units	Descriptions
Writing Strategies Level DD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding Writing Assignments • Thinking about Audience • Choosing Words Carefully • Separating Ideas into Paragraphs • Mapping Ideas • Using a Checklist to Proofread Your Work—Essential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze writing assignments in order to understand exactly what the assignment is asking. • Think about audience when writing. • Identify repeated words and phrases and replace them with more varied words. • Organize thoughts into paragraphs. • Create idea maps to organize and generate ideas. • Proofread using a developmentally appropriate checklist.
Writing Strategies Level EE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tying Your Ideas Together—Conclusions • Going Deeper with Your Research • Varying Your Sentences • Approaching a Peer Review • Reading Out Loud • Freewriting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write conclusions that effectively summarize the major ideas of papers. • Expand research information that is important to the thesis and omit unimportant details. • Identify areas of text that suffer from repetitive sentence lengths. • Adapt peer review comments to reflect whether you are reviewing an early or a nearly done draft. • Identify surface errors and flow problems by reading your own papers and the papers of others out loud. • Freewrite to generate ideas to explore in papers.

Course Levels	Units	Descriptions
Grammar and Mechanics Level DD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matching Verbs with Subjects • Matching Irregular Verbs with Subjects • Adding Missing Forms of <i>Be</i> and <i>Have</i> • Putting Commas and Periods inside Quotation Marks • Putting Quotation Marks around Quotations • Capitalizing Titles of People 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify regular present tense verbs that immediately follow their subjects so they agree with their subjects in number. • Transform common irregular verbs so they agree with their subject. • Correct sentence fragments that lack <i>to be</i> or <i>to have</i> verbs. • Modify sentences to put a quotation's ending punctuation marks inside the quotation marks. • Put double quotation marks around direct quotations. • Capitalize titles of people when they precede proper names.
Grammar and Mechanics Level EE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matching Separated Verbs and Subjects • Matching Verbs with Compound Subjects • Fixing Double Negatives • Choosing <i>Good/Well</i> and <i>Bad/Badly</i> • Capitalizing Names of Places and Events • Showing Ownership in Singular Nouns • Using Commas in Dates and Places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify regular present tense verbs so they agree with their subject in number even though other words come between them. • Modify regular present tense verbs so they agree in number with compound subjects. • Correct unintentional double negatives. • Modify sentences to differentiate <i>good</i> from <i>well</i> and <i>bad</i> from <i>badly</i>. • Capitalize names of places and events. • Add 's to singular nouns to show ownership or possession. • Use commas to separate parts of dates, addresses, and place names where appropriate.

For more information, please call 800.44.PLATO or visit www.plato.com

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