

PLATO[®] Fundamental Writing Process and Practice

Grade Level: 5–6
Target Audience: Middle/High School/Adult (remedial)
Audio Support: Yes

Product Features

- 28 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

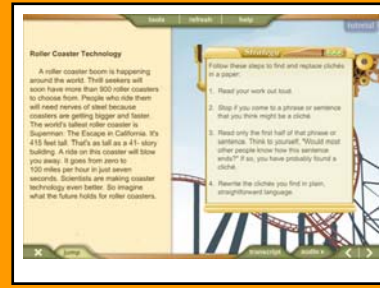
Exit—allows learner to stop and exit the module

Reference Materials (Refer to PLATO Documentation CD)

PLATO Curriculum Guide—Fundamental Writing Process and Practice

PLATO Curriculum Guide—Fundamental Writing Process and Practice—Online

PLATO Curriculum Guide—Fundamental Writing Process and Practice—In



Getting Started

- Refer to the PLATO Curriculum Guide—Fundamental 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—Fundamental Writing Process and Practice to effectively incorporate the writing strategies:

- Document Centered
- Pre-Teaching
- Computer Sequenced
- Collaborative Learning
- Class Demonstration
- 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.

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

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Curriculum
Structure

Curriculum

Fundamental
Writing
Process and
Practice

Course

Writing
Strategies
(Level GG)

Module

Avoiding
Clichés

Tutorial

Application

Mastery Test



Fundamental 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

Fundamental Writing Process and Practice

Course Levels	Units	Descriptions
Writing Strategies Level FF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing for Assignments that Don't Specify an Audience • Determining Your Thesis • Giving Credit • Summarizing During a Peer Review • Taking Notes • Tying Sentences Together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given a writing prompt that does not specify an audience, create a plan for writing based on the purpose of the prompt: to check the learner's knowledge, ability to think critically, and/or ability to write. • Write a thesis statement that gives the right amount of detail about the writer's main point. • Use informal citations to give credit to sources. • Summarize paragraphs in a peer review as a check for the writer. • Take summary notes on a paragraph or short reading section to generate critical analysis questions and comments. • Use transition words to effectively link ideas in cause/effect, chronological, and compare/contrast structures.
Writing Strategies Level GG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoiding Clichés • Outlining • Asking Peer Review Questions • Asking Research Questions • Writing in a Formal Style • Proving Your Arguments with Evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace clichés with straightforward language. • Create an outline before writing a paper. • Generate peer review feedback in the form of questions that suggest ways to improve. • Generate research questions that narrow one's focus, expand supporting ideas, and guide one's research. • Follow conventions of formal academic writing. • Classify pieces of evidence according to how they support a given argument.

Course Levels	Units	Descriptions
Grammar and Mechanics Level FF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoiding Confusing Pronouns Matching Verbs with Indefinite Pronouns Knowing When to Use <i>ly</i> Modifiers Knowing When Not to Use <i>ly</i> Modifiers Capitalizing Words in Quotations Showing Ownership in Plural Nouns Using Quotation Marks with Titles of Short Works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modify sentences to clear up ambiguous pronoun references. Modify verbs to match indefinite pronouns in number. Turn adjectives into adverbs when incorrectly used to modify verbs, adverbs, or other adjectives. Turn adverbs into adjectives when incorrectly used to modify nouns and pronouns. Capitalize the first word of a direct complete-sentence quotation. Modify plural nouns to show possession. Put quotation marks around the titles of works that are short works or parts of other works.
Grammar and Mechanics Level GG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Showing Ownership with Possessives Choosing <i>Who</i> or <i>That</i> Using Verbs that Are Irregular in the Past Tense Writing Contractions like <i>Could've</i> Using <i>Their</i> and <i>His</i> as Pronouns Fixing Misplaced Modifiers Using Commas in Sentences with <i>Or</i>, <i>And</i>, or <i>But</i> Fixing Sentence Fragments—Prepositional Phrases Using Apostrophes with Compound Possessives Capitalizing Proper Names and Modifiers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modify possessive personal pronouns to their proper form. Modify relative pronouns <i>who</i> and <i>that</i> to match their referents. Modify irregular verbs (<i>begin, break, bring, wear, see, give</i>) to their correct past tense or past participle forms. Modify sentences to eliminate auxiliary verb + <i>of</i> constructions (<i>could have, would have, should have, must have</i>). Modify sentences to avoid the use of <i>their</i> or <i>his</i> with singular referents. Modify sentences to correct misplaced modifiers. Properly punctuate clauses linked by coordinating conjunctions. Correct sentence fragments resulting from disconnected prepositional phrases. Modify compound nouns to show possession. Capitalize proper nouns.

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