

Writing First: Strategies for Struggling Writers

Assistive Writing

What is Assistive Writing Technology?

- takes the place of pen/pencil
- produces a hard copy
- may need to be portable
- a tool to allow student to meet the writing requirements of the curriculum

What Assistive Writing Technology is NOT!

- not computer-aided instruction
- not the only tool to be considered
- not the answer to all writing situations/needs

Writing Considerations

What do Students Have to Write?

- Grade level tasks
- School assignments vs. homework
- Journals
- Worksheets
- Spelling Sentences
- Essays
- Tests
- Notes
- Book Reports
- Letter

What are the difficulties that they are having?

- Not Enough Time
- Repeated Errors
- Staying on Topic
- Get Stuck on Thoughts
- Translating a Verbal Story into a Written Story
- Editing
- NoteTaking
- Getting Started
- Staying Motivated throughout the Writing Task
- Generating Ideas
- Falling behind Others in Class
- Illegible Handwriting
- Lack of basic computer skills
- Completing lengthy assignments
- Following directions
- Putting thoughts into words
- Generating cohesive idea

Addressing composition woes...

- Word cards, word wall, word banks, picture banks
- Sentence starters, story starters
- Cued notetaking
- Theme-mapping
- Outlining, Webbing

The Writing Process

1. Getting Started: Prewriting
2. Sloppy Copy: First Draft
3. Hamming it Up: Revision
4. Tuning It Up: Editing

5. Neat Sheet: Final Copy
6. Publishing: Sharing and Celebrating

Complex activity that involves the blending of:

- Fine motor coordination (Graphomotor)
- Attention
- Language
- Memory
- Higher-order thinking

Neurodevelopmental differences can occur in one or more of those areas.

“There is not another academic skill that demands that a child bring together as many different neurodevelopmental functions as are required for writing.”

~Dr. Mel Levine

<http://www.allkindsofminds.org/>

Graphomotor

Graphomotor function refers to the ability to use muscles in the fingers and hands to form letters easily and legibly and to maintain a comfortable grip on a writing instrument. This function plays an important role in maneuvering a pen or pencil and allowing the fingers to keep pace with the flow of ideas.

- Coordinating small muscles of the fingers needed to form letters
- Signs of writing problems:
 - Finds it hard to form letters
 - Has difficulty manipulating a pencil
 - Grips a pencil uncomfortably tightly
 - Holds a pencil in an awkward manner
 - Struggles to coordinate small muscles to keep up with the flow of ideas

Possible Solutions

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pens & Pencil Grips • Raised Paper • Slant Boards • Templates • Labels | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magnetic Letters • Fonts • Dictation • Portable Word Processors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onscreen Keyboards • Speech Recognition |
|--|--|--|

Attention

Attention plays an important role in all stages of writing. This task often demands considerable mental energy and focus over long periods of time. Writers must not only preview what they want to convey as they put their ideas on paper, but also continually self-monitor to stay on track.

- Maintaining concentration and self-monitoring work
- Signs of writing problems:
 - Is distracted or fidgety during writing tasks
 - Loses one's place while writing
 - Appears mentally fatigued or overly tired while writing
 - Doesn't exert effort if topic is not personally interesting
 - Is unable to get started on writing assignments

Possible Solutions

- Emphasize Key Information
- Preview, Plan & Monitor
- Edit - Talking Word Processors
- Talking Word Processors
- Microsoft Word
 - Report Wizard, Templates

Language Production

Language is an essential ingredient of writing. The ability to recognize letter sounds, comprehend words and their meanings, understand word order and grammar to construct sentences, and describe or explain ideas all contribute to a child's ability to write clearly.

- Using words and forming sentences correctly
- Signs of writing problems:
 - Has difficulty with word sounds or meaning
 - Cannot easily spell words so they reflect the way they are pronounced
 - Finds oral expression difficult
 - Struggles with sentence structure and proper word order
 - Has trouble reading back what is written

Possible Solutions

- Dictionaries
- Inspiration
- Spell Checkers
- Microsoft Word
- Word Prediction
- TextHelp
- Kurzweil ~ WYNN
- Earobics
- Ultimate Phonics
- Simon SIO
- Clicker 5
- E-pals
- Hollywood High

Memory

Memory ability has a significant impact on writing. The rate at which children generate ideas must coincide with their retrieval of necessary vocabulary, spelling, and prior knowledge. When organizing essays, writers must be able to think about a topic, draw upon facts and concepts, and sequence ideas and facts in the right order.

- Recalling letters, rules and ideas
- Signs of writing problems:
 - Cannot easily recall letter formation.
 - Cannot easily recall rules of spelling, grammar, punctuation
 - Presents ideas out of sequence
 - Has trouble accessing prior knowledge while writing
 - Struggles to organize ideas while writing

Possible Solutions

- Desktop Helpers
- Strategies
 - Break Processes into steps
 - POWER
 - P...Plan the paper
 - O...Organize your ideas
 - Speaking Homework Wiz
 - Mnemonic strategies
 - COPS
 - Capitalization
 - Omissions

W...Write the draft
E...Edit your work
R...Revise

Punctuation
Spelling

Post writing

Does content equal framework?
Error monitoring strategies
Does the writing make sense to others?
Is the writing too long or short?

Self-Checking:

Do the sentences make sense?
Are the correct words capitalized and all others lower case?
Is correct punctuation used?
Are all the words spelled correctly? (Isaacson, S. 1997)

Make sure that:

You did not spend too much time on one part.
You did not leave out anything important.
You did not include too much information.
The writing flows smoothly.
Events happen chronologically.
(Kemper et al. 1995)

Questions when revising:

Was any information overlooked?
My favorite part of the writing is....
Is there a section that could be made clearer?
Are my thoughts chronological?
Could I have done this differently? (Marzano et al. 1995)

C-D-O Revising Strategy:

Compare: Read a sentence.

Diagnose: Does this sound right?

Am I getting away from the main idea?
Will other people understand and believe the main idea?
I like it as it is.
Why was this the diagnosis for that sentence?

Operate: Do I need to leave this sentence out?

Do I need to include more information?
Do I need to reword it?
I should leave it the same.
Go to the next sentence. (Harris et al. 1996)

EmPOWER (*Singer & Bashir – www.architectsforlearning.com*)

Evaluate – pick apart the assignment to find out what I have to do

Make a Plan – decide how I will approach the task & what strategies I'll use

Organize - show & organize my ideas visually

Work – do the work of writing my paper

Evaluate – reflect on & judge the quality of my work

Re-work – make any necessary adjustments

Inspiration

Activate Prior knowledge - Organize and arrange thoughts <http://www.inspiration.com/>

Higher Order Cognition

In the upper grades, writing relies on higher-order cognitive functions. Assignments often require students to generate original and creative ideas while integrating spelling, grammar, and punctuation rules. By early adolescence, many written assignments demand critical thinking skills and conceptual ability such as evaluating opposing arguments and drawing conclusions.

- Generating ideas and taking a stepwise approach to plan/revise
- Signs of writing problems:
 - Cannot easily generate ideas or elaborate on them in writing
 - Has difficulty with writing tasks requiring creativity and/or critical thinking
 - Finds organizing writing tasks difficult

Higher Order Cognition involves (*allkindsofminds.org*)

Concept Formation/Transformation – Integrating ideas that go together

Critical Thinking – evaluating ideas and opinions

Creativity – independent thinking and self-generated thoughts

Problem Solving – applying a strategic approach to complex questions

Rule Use – Learning, developing, and applying rules and principles

Logical thinking/Reasoning – generating answers to complex issues

Mental Representation – portraying new ideas so they are meaningful and lasting

Helpful hints

Create an environment for risk taking and promotes innovative thinking

Encourage areas of focused interest

Allow students to select materials, projects, reading texts, writing topics, spelling words

Use high interest subject matter for creative activities

Allow students to create products using different formats

Comics, TV scripts, magazine articles, song lyrics

Develop activities that help the students' ability to think ahead, or predict possible outcomes

Collaborative activities, working in teams

Write using story starters

In social studies, students have students make predictions about historical events

Have students estimate answers to science experiments

Provide a strategy sheet for problem solving with

estimation, prediction and outcome comparison

Possible Solutions

Note Taking

Be able to listen and write at the same time

Fine Motor speed

Saliency determination required

Recall

Sequencing

Note Taking – Outline/Web

Graphic Organizers

Web Resources:

Design and print different graphic organizers. You don't have to be an artist to do it!

http://teachers.teach-nology.com/web_tools/graphic_org/

http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/6_8/graphorg/

Brainstorm Ideas/Lists

Generate ideas apart from writing

Record ideas in list form

Record ideas into a tape recorder

Kidspiration/Inspiration: Super Grouper - Rapid fire mode for brainstorming and listing ideas

Writer's Companion – Systematically walks students through the writing process.

Solo - Students learn the "Process of Writing"

1. Outlining and Mapping

2. Add notes and expand outline

- 3. Synthesize outline and notes into a draft
- Provides auditory feedback
- Students can work in outline view, diagram view or both.

Writers Writing in the Content Areas

- Writers write to demonstrate understanding
- Writers write to Enhance Learning and memory
- Writers write to inform and to express important ideas in the real world
- Writers write to
 - Analyze and solve problems
 - Express feelings including anger, joy, laughter, or sadness
 - Share secrets, personal ideas, and interests
 - Share experiences, wildest ideas and discoveries
 - Record information
 - Share thoughts with other individuals
 - Appreciate the beauty and magic of language
 - Remember information for later use or study
 - Become a published author
 - Play with words, thoughts, and ideas
 - Relax and enjoy self-expression
 - Brainstorm and journal

Resources

- Chapman, C., & King, R. (2003). *Differentiated Instructional Strategies for Writing in the Content Areas*. Corwin Press, Inc.
- Culham, R., (2003). *6+1 Traits of Writing: The Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up*. Scholastic,
- Cunningham, P.M., & Allington, R.L. (2006). *Classrooms that work: They can all read and write*, 4th.ed. Longman: New York, NY.
- Cunningham, P.M., Hall, D.P., & Sigmon, C. M. (1999). *The teacher's guide to the four blocks: A multimethod, multilevel framework for grades 1-3*. Carson-Dellosa Publishing Company, Inc.: Greensboro, NC.
- Detheridge, T., & Detheridge, M. (1997). *Literacy through symbols: Improving access for children and adults*. David Fulton Publishers: London.
- Developing Minds - Getting Thoughts on Paper. Dr. Mel Levine. Videocassette. WGBH Educational Foundation, 2002.
- Graham, S., MacArthur, C.S., & Fitzgerald, J. (2007). *Best Practices in Writing Instruction*. New York, NY: Guildord Press.
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- Harris, K. R., & Grahman, S. (1996). *Making the writing process work: Strategies for composition and self-regulation*. Brookline Books: Cambridge, MA.
- Harris, K., Graham, S., Mason, L.H., & Friedlander, B. (2008). *POWERFUL Writing Strategies For All Students*. Baltimore, Md: Brookes Publishing.
- McMurdo, K, & Haynes, C. (2001). *Structured Writing: Using Inspiration to Teach Paragraph Development*. ISTE

- McMurdo, K. (2003). *Structured Writing II: Using Inspiration Software to Teach Essay Development*. ISTE
- Sigmond, C. M. (2001). *Modifying the four blocks for upper grades: Matching strategies to students' needs*. Carson-Dellosa Publishing Company, Inc.: Greensboro, NC.
- Sousa, David A. *How the Special Needs Brain Learns*. Vol. 1. California: Corwin P, Inc, 2001. 1-237.
- Sousa, David A. *How the Brain Learns*. 2nd Edition. California: Corwin P, Inc, 2001. 1-3057.

Websites

- www.nwrel.org/assessment/lessonplans.php This site has lesson plans for 6 traits of writing
- www.nwrel.org/assessment/scoringpractice.php This site allows you to get practice papers for traits of writing. Can select trait and age group you want to score
- www.kidpub.org/kidpub/ This is a site that publishes student writing. Even offers a page for schools to post their students' writing.
- www.kidscom.com/create/write/write_form.html A site that publishes student writing
- www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=195 This is a lesson that allows students to create a comic strip. It has a comic strip creator, planning sheet and grading rubric.
- www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=101 Using Picture books to teach characterization in writer's workshop. This lesson has book list for books that have strong characters, interactive graphic organizer and self assessment piece.
- www.thinkfinity.org/home.aspx From Verizon Foundation - A site for finding lesson plans in different curricular areas that incorporate technology. Many of the lessons have on-line tools for making brochures, timelines, graphic organizers, etc.
- www.allkindsofminds.org/ptk/WritingBasics.aspx - Parent Toolkit - From the early formation of letters to crafting an essay, writing involves perhaps more subskills than any other academic task. To write well requires combining multiple physical and mental processes in one concerted effort to communicate information and ideas.
- www.ldonline.org/ld_indepth/technology/technology.html - Questions and answers about technology and dyslexia.
- www.eduplace.com/rdg/res/frequent.html - High-Frequency words and vocabulary list.
- <http://rubistar.4teachers.org> - RubiStar is a free tool to help teachers create quality rubrics.
- www.allkindsofminds.org - All Kinds of Minds is a non-profit Institute that helps students who struggle with learning measurably improve their success in school and life by providing programs that integrate educational, scientific, and clinical expertise.

Product & Software Resources:

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| • The Writer | Advanced Keyboard Technologies | www.keyboardinstructor.com |
| • AlphaSmart, Neo, Dana | AlphaSmart | www3.alphasmart.com |
| • Reach, SoothSayer | Applied Human Factors | www.ahf-net.com |
| • Link II, Stages | Assistive Technology | www.assistivetech.com |
| • Adapted Pens, Paper | Beacon-Ridge | www.beacon-ridge.com |
| • Adapted Books; Emerging Literacy | Creative Communicating | www.creative-com.com |
| • Clicker 5; Cloze Pro; Word Bar | Crick Software Inc. | www.cricksoftware.com |
| • Little Books; Solo | Don Johnston Inc. | www.donjohnston.com |
| • QuickPAD IR | QuickPad | www.quickpad.com |
| • WYNN; Test Talker | Freedom Scientific Inc. | www.freedomscientific.com/LSG/index.asp |
| • Adapted Keyboards & Mouse | InfoGrip | www.infogrip.com |
| • Computer Access, Keyguards | Inclusive TLC | www.inclusivetlc.com |
| • Inspiration, Kidspiration | Inspiration Software Inc. | www.inspiration.com |

- IntelliTools Classroom Suite, IntelliKeys, Overlay Maker **IntelliTools Inc.** www.intellitools.com
- Kurzweil 3000 **Kurzweil Educational Systems.** www.kurzweiledu.com
- Tracker; Discover **Madentec Inc** www.madentec.com
- Writing Activities **Learning Magic** learningmagicinc.com
- One handed keyboard **Matias Corporation** www.halfkeyboard.com
- Speaking Dynamically Pro; BoardMaker+ **Mayer Johnson Co.** www.mayer-johnson.com
- Power Point; MicroSoft Word **MicroSoft Corporation** www.microsoft.com
- PC Notetaker **NexConcepts** www.nexconcepts.com
- OmniGraffle, OmniOutliner **Omni Group** www.omnigroup.com
- Writing Aids, Lottie Kits **Onion Mountain Technology** www.onionmountaintech.com
- Head Mouse; OnScreen Keyboards **Origin Instruments** www.orin.com/access
- Laser PC; Writer **Perfect Solutions Software Inc** www.perfectsolutions.com
- Scan & Read Pro, Talking Dictionary **Premier Assistive Technology** www.readingmadeeasy.com
- WordQ, SpeakQ **Quillsoft** www.wordq.com
- Picture It; Pix Writer **Slater Software** www.slatersoft.com
- Spark Space **Spark-Space Ltd.** www.spark-space.com
- Read & Write Gold **TextHelp Systems Inc.** www.texthelp.com
- Teaching Rings **Therapro Inc.** www.theraproducts.com
- Scholastic Keys **Tom Snyder Inc.** www.tomsnyder.com
- Keyguards **Turning Point Therapy & Technology** www.turningpointtechnology.com
- Writer's Companion **Vision's Technology in Education** www.writerscomp.com

Freeware Text to Speech Software

Help Read	Free - Screen Reader - Win 3.1+	www.helpread.net/
Microsoft Reader PC	Free - Screen Reader - Windows	www.microsoft.com/reader
Read Please	Free - Text-to-Speech Reader - Win 95+	www.readplease.com
ClipTalk	Reads anything copied to the clipboard	www.fullmeasure.co.uk

Resource List for Writing

Graphomotor

Pens & Pencil Grips - Raised Paper	Beacon Ridge Pro Ed Pocket Full of Therapy	www.beacon-ridge.com www.proedinc.com www.pfot.com
Literacy Lined Paper	Beacon Ridge	www.beacon-ridge.com
Structured Writing Paper	Assistive Writing Solutions	www.assistivewritingsolutions.com
Magnetic Letters	Magnetic Poetry	www.magneticpoetry.com
School Fonts	School Fonts	www.schoolfonts.com
Alphasmart, Neo, Dana	Renaissance Learning	www.alphasmart.com
Quickpad	QuickPad	www.quickpad.com
Laser PC 6	Perfect Solutions	www.perfectsolutions.com
The Writer	Advanced Keyboard Technologies	www.keyboardinstructor.com
OnScreen Keyboards		
Reach Keyboard	Applied Human Factors	www.ahf-net.com
PixWriter	Slater Software, Inc	www.slatersoftware.com
Intellitalk	Intellitools	www.intellitools.com
Dragon Naturally Speaking	Nuance	www.nuance.com
Speak Q	QuillSoft	www.wordq.com

Attention

Templates/Wizards	Microsoft	www.microsoft.com
Highlighter Tape	Onion Mountain Technology Beacon Ridge	www.onionmountaintech.com www.beacon-ridge.com
Web Highlighting	i-Lighter	www.i-lighter.com
Kidspiration, Inspiration	Inspiration Software	www.inspiration.com
Read Please	ReadPlease	www.readplease.com
AspireReader	Aequus Technologies	www.aequusdps.com
Intellitalk III	Intellitools, Inc.	www.intellitools.com
Write:Outloud	Don Johnston, Inc.	www.donjohnston.com

Language Production

Word Finder	Pilot Light Books.	www.phonicsspeller.com/WordFinder.html
Sound-It-Out Speller	Don Johnston, Inc.	www.donjohnston.com
Bad Spellers Dictionary	Random House	www.randomhouse.com
Speaking Homework Wiz	Franklin Learning Resources	www.franklin.com
Quicktionary Reading Pen II	WizCom Technologies Inc.	www.wizcomtech.com
Co:Writer	Don Johnston, Inc.	www.donjohnston.com
Word Q, Speak Q	Quillsoft	www.wordq.com
Read and Write Gold	TextHelp	www.texthelp.com
WYNN	Freedom Scientific Learning Group	www.freedomscientific.com/LSG
Kurzweil 3000	Kurzweil Education Systems Inc.	www.kurzweiledu.com
Scan and Read Pro	Premier Assistive Technology	www.readingmadeeasy.com
Phonics Companion	Visions Technology in Education	www.toolsforteachers.com
Phonics Alive	Advanced Software	www.phonicsalive.com
Ultimate Phonics	Spencer Learning	www.spencerlearning.com
Earobics	Cognitive Concepts	www.earobics.com
Lexia	Lexia Learning System	www.lexialearning.com
Simon SIO, WordMaker	Don Johnston, Inc.	www.donjohnston.com
ePals	ePals	www.epals.com
Hollywood High	Software Express	www.swexpress.com

Memory

Desktop Helpers	Really Good Stuff	www.reallygoodstuff.org
Kidspiration, Inspiration	Inspiration Software, Inc.	www.inspiration.com
Homework Wiz	Franklin Learning Resources	www.franklin.com

Making the Writing Process Work: Strategies for Composition and Self-Regulation (1996) Karen Harris and Steve Graham

Higher Order Thinking

Carbonless Notebook	Beacon Ridge	www.beacon-ridge.com
Graphic Organizers	teAchnology	http://teachers.teach-nology.com/web_tools/graphic_org
	Houghton Mifflin	www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/6_8/graphorg
Kidspiration, Inspiration	Inspiration Software, Inc.	www.inspiration.com
SOLO	Don Johnston, Inc.	www.donjohnston.com
Writer's Companion	Visions Technology in Education	www.writerscomp.com

Websites

- www.nwrel.org/assessment/lessonplans.php This site allows you to get lesson plans for traits of writing
- www.nwrel.org/assessment/scoringpractice.php This site allows you to get practice papers for traits of writing. Can select trait and age group you want to score
- www.kidpub.org/kidpub/ This is a site that publishes student writing. Even offers a page for schools to post their students' writing.
- www.kidscom.com/create/write/write_form.html A site that publishes student writing
- www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=195 This is a lesson that allows students to create a comic strip. It has a comic strip creator, planning sheet and grading rubric.
- www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=101 Using Picture books to teach characterization in writer's workshop. This lesson has book list for books that have strong characters, interactive graphic organizer and self assessment piece.
- www.thinkfinity.org/home.aspx From Verizon Foundation - A site for finding lesson plans in different curricular areas that incorporate technology. Many of the lessons have on-line tools for making brochures, timelines, graphic organizers, etc.
- www.allkindsofminds.org/ptk/WritingBasics.aspx - Parent Toolkit - From the early formation of letters to crafting an essay, writing involves perhaps more subskills than any other academic task. To write well requires combining multiple physical and mental processes in one concerted effort to communicate information and ideas.
- www.idonline.org/ld_indepth/technology/technology.html - Questions and answers about technology and dyslexia.
- www.eduplace.com/rdg/res/frequent.html - High-Frequency words and vocabulary list.
- <http://rubistar.4teachers.org> - RubiStar is a free tool to help teachers create quality rubrics.
- www.allkindsofminds.org - All Kinds of Minds is a non-profit Institute that helps students who struggle with learning measurably improve their success in school and life by providing programs that integrate educational, scientific, and clinical expertise.

Assisted Writing Resources

Writing Print Resources

Writing Activity Workbooks:

- Barden, C. & Hillam, C. (1995). *Love to write: Activities to sharpen creative writing skills*. Teaching and Learning Company: Carthage, IL.
- Boone, B. Z. (1996). *Tools for writing: Creating writer's workshops for grades 2-8*. Corwin Press: Thousand Oaks, CA.
- Canfield, H., & Locke, P. (1998). *Book of possibilities: Activities using simple technology, elementary edition*. AbleNet Inc.: Minneapolis, MN. (800-322-0956)
- Canfield, H., & Locke, P. (1998). *Book of possibilities: Activities using simple technology, secondary edition*. AbleNet Inc.: Minneapolis, MN. (800-322-0956)
- Dye, R. (2001). *Story writing: Language arts activity book*. Mark Twain Media, Inc: Greensboro, NC.
- Evans, M. (ed.). (1997). *Giant write every day*. Evan-Moor Corp: Monterey, CA.
- Flynn, K. (1995). *Graphic organizers: Helping children think visually*. Creative Teaching Press, Inc.: Cypress, CA.
- Hall, D.P., & Williams, E. (2001). *Predictable charts: Shared writing for kindergarten and first grade*. Carson-Dellosa Publishing Company, Inc.: Greensboro, NC.
- Hall, D.P., & Loman, K.L. (2002). *Interactive charts: Shared reading for kindergarten and first grade*. Carson-Dellosa Publishing Company, Inc.: Greensboro, NC.
- Horton, B., & Wiegert, E. (2002). *Using handhelds and billiards to teach reflection, 29 (8) 32-35*.
- Keiser, J. (ed.). (1998). *Classroom ideas using Inspiration: For teachers by teachers*. Inspiration Software, Inc.: Portland, OR.
- Kieczkowski, C. (1996). *Developing process writing skills: Primary writer's workshop*. Fearon Teachers Aids/Frank Schaffer Publications: Grand Rapids, MI.
- Kieczkowski, C. (2000). *Expanding the primary writer's workshop: 50 mini-lessons to improve writing*. Fearon Teachers Aids/Frank Schaffer Publications: Grand Rapids, MI.
- Krensky, S. (1998). *Write away! One author's favorite activities that help ordinary writers become extraordinary writers*. Scholastic Professional Books: NY.
- Laker, N. (2006). *Using picture books to teach narrative writing: Engaging mini-lessons and activities to teach students about key story elements*. Scholastic Teaching Resources: NY.
- Martin, C.S. (2005). *Trait-based writing skills: Teach students to assess their own writing!* Carson-Dellosa Publishing Company, Inc.: Greensboro, NC.
- Pinell, G.S., & Fountas, I. G. (1998). *Word matters: teaching phonics and spelling in the reading/writing classroom*. Heinemann: Portsmouth, NH.
- Rankin, D. (2000). *QuickStart series: AlphaSmart classroom activities*. Forest Technologies: Cary, IL.
- Rasinski, T. (2001). *Making and writing words; Grades 3-6*. Carson-Dellosa Publishing Company, Inc.: Greensboro, NC.
- Sanders, N. I. (2001). *25 read & write mini-books that teach word families*. Scholastic Professional Books: New York.
- Sharp, V. (2000). *Make it with Inspiration*. ISTE, Visions Technology in Education: Eugene, OR.
- Sundem, G., & Piekiewica, K. (2006). *Writing in the content areas*. Teacher Created Resources: Westminster, CA.
- Tech4Learning. (2000). *Recipes 4 Success*. AlphaSmart Inc.: Cupertino, CA.
- Ventura, D. (1999). *AlphaSmart projects*. Ventura Educational Systems: Grover Beach: CA.

Writing AT Assessment Books:

- Anson, D.K. (1997). *Alternative computer access: A guide to selection*. F.A. Davis Company: Philadelphia, PA.
- Coster, W. et.al. (1998). *School function assessment: Rating scale guide*. Therapy Skill Builders: NY.
- DeCoste, D.C. (2005). *Assistive technology assessment: Developing a written productivity profile*. Don Johnston Inc.: Volo, IL.
- Fiderer, A. (1998). *35 Rubrics & checklists to assess reading and writing*. Scholastic: NY
- Fraser, B.A., McGregor, G., Anderson-Arango, G., & Kangas, K. (1994). *Physical characteristics assessment: Computer access for individuals with cerebral palsy*. Don Johnston Inc.: Volo, IL.

Assisted Writing Resources

- GPAT. (2005). **Assistive technology assessment summary**. Georgia Project for Assistive Technology: Atlanta, GA.
- O'Leary, S. (1996). **Computer access for persons with spinal cord injury: High tech & low tech assistive devices, techniques, and resources for independence**. Special Needs Projects World Wide: Santa Barbara, CA.
- Raskind, M.H., & Bryant, B.R. (2000). **FEAT: Functional evaluation for assistive technology**. Psycho-Educational Services: Austin, TX.
- Slater Software. (2007). **PAL planner: Picture-assisted literacy**. Slater Software Inc.: CO
- Sweeney, J. (2002). **The AT continuum: Low to high tech tools for students with special needs**. Onion Mountain Technology Inc.: Canton, CT.
- Sweeney, J. (2002). **The CIRCUIT evaluation process for students with learning and other mild disabilities**. Onion Mountain Technology Inc.: Canton, CT.
- WATI (2004). **The WATI assessment package**. Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative: OshKosh, WI.

Writing Resource Books:

- AlphaSmart. (2002). **Using AlphaSmarts in the writing process**. AlphaSmart Inc.: Cupertino, CA.
- Barksdale, K., & Steffe, J. (1998). **Writing with computers**. Computer Literacy Press.
- Bitter, G., & Skinik, C. (1998). **Working with computers**. Computers Literacy Press:
- Bumgardner, J. C. (1996). **Helping students learn to write: An idea book for K-7 teachers**. Allyn and Bacon: Boston.
- Cook, A.M., & Miller Polgar, J. (2007). **Cook & Hussey's assistive technologies: Principles and practice**. Mosby Elsevier: China.
- Cunningham, P.M., & Allington, R.L. (2006). **Classrooms that work: They can all read and write**, 3rd.ed. Longman: New York, NY.
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Journal Articles

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Internet Resources

- 101 Ideas for PDAs www.k12handhelds.com/apps.php
- AAC Intervention Resource www.aacintervention.com
- Center for Literacy & Disability Studies www.med.unc.edu/ahs/clds/index.html
- Educator's Palm www.educatorspalm.org
- Florida Instructional Technology Resource Center www.itrc.ucf.edu
- Great Resources for Integrating Technology in Schools (GRITS) www.gritsonline.org
- Handheld devices in the classroom eduscapes.com/tap/topic78.htm
- International Society for Technology in Education www.iste.org
- LD On Line www.ldonline.org/
- LD Resources www.ldresources.com/
- Literacy Center.net www.literacycenter.net/

Assisted Writing Resources

- Literacy Empowerment Foundation www.colorcodedbooks.org/lef/index.htm
- The Palm Pilot Project www.leroy.k12.ny.us/District/PalmProject.htm
- pdaEd www.pdaed.com/vertical/home.xml

Websites for Supports on 6+Traits (From ISTE information)

- www.eduplace.com/tales/index.html Wacky Web Tales site (AKA Mad Libs)
- www.eduplace.com/fakeout/index.html Fake Out! Vocabulary game similar to Balder dash (Reading presentation)
- www.nwrel.org/assessment/scoringpractice.php This and the above site allow you to get practice papers for traits of writing. Can select trait and age group you want to score
- www.kimskorner4teachertalk.com/ Scroll down to writing to lead you to lesson ideas on each of the traits of writing. It also had ideas for grammar and reading lessons.
- www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/intro.html This site guides you through the steps to create your own webquest.
- www.ga.k12.pa.us/curtech/powerwk.htm This site has a “step by step” list of directions for using powerpoint.
- www.ga.k12.pa.us/curtech/hypertut.htm “Step by step” directions for using Hyperstudio.
- www.ga.k12.pa.us/curtech/WEBQPRE/assesspp.htm This is a sample rubric to use for grading a powerpoint presentation
- www.epals.com/scholastic/index_sch.html?seesf=5537518 Key Pals. Find key pals from around the world to give your students a new reason to communicate through writing.
- www.kidlink.org/english/general/intro.html Another site for Key pals.
- www.kidpub.org/kidpub/ This is a site that publishes student writing. Even offers a page for schools to post their students’ writing.
- www.kidscom.com/create/write/write_form.html Another site that publishes student writing
- www.hardin.k12.ky.us/res_techn/countyeopardygames.htm Directions on how to create your own Jeopardy game.
- teach.fcps.net/trt10/PowerPoint.htm Powerpoint game templates and directions how to create your own games. Jeopardy, Who Wants To Be A Millionaire and Hollywood Squares.
- teach.fcps.net/trt10/PowerPoint.htm#temp : Already created powerpoints to accompany math lessons, Hatchet, etc.
- www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=195 This is a lesson that allows students to create a comic strip. It has a comic strip creator, planning sheet and grading rubric! Excellent and fun!
- www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=101 Using Picture books to teach characterization in writer’s workshop. This lesson has book list for books that have strong characters, interactive graphic organizer and self assessment piece.
- www.marcopolo-education.org/home.aspx Excellent site for finding lesson plans in different curricular areas that incorporate technology. Many of the lessons have on-line tools for making brochures, timelines, graphic organizers, etc. A must see site!
- www.marinette.k12.wi.us/hs/lmc/web_eval.htm Great website evaluation form to use.

Writing Product & Software Resources

- **Advanced Keyboard Technologies** Fusion, The Writer
www.keyboardinstructor.com
- **AlphaSmart/Renaissance** AlphaSmart, Neo, Dana
www3.alphasmart.com
- **Applied Human Factors** Reach, SoothSayer
www.ahf-net.com
- **Assistive Technology** Link II, Stages
www.assistivetech.com
- **Beacon-Ridge** Adapted Pens, Paper
www.beacon-ridge.com

Assisted Writing Resources

- **CalcuScribe** www.calcuscribe.com CalcuScribe
- **Creative Communicating** www.creative-comm.com Adapted Books; Emerging Literacy
- **Crick Software Inc.** www.cricksoftware.com Clicker 5; Cloze Pro; Word Bar, Clicker Paint, Find Out & Write Abot
- **Don Johnston Inc.** www.donjohnston.com Write:OutLoud; Co:Writer; Draft Builder, Little Books; Solo
- **Dynavox Systems** www.dynavoxsys.com DynaWrite
- **EnableMart** www.enablemart.com QuickPAD IR
- **Freedom Scientific Inc.** www.freedomscientific.com WYNN; Test Talker
- **InfoGrip** www.infogrip.com Adapted Keyboards & Mouse
- **Inclusive TLC** www.inclusivetlc.com Computer Access, Keyguards, Software
- **Inspiration Software Inc.** www.inspiration.com Inspiration, Kidspiration, Inspiration Palm, InspireData
- **IntelliTools Inc.** www.intellitools.com IntelliTools Classroom Suite, IntelliKeys, Overlay Maker
- **Learning Co.** www.learningco.com M-Power Express; KidPix Studio, American Girl; Storybook Weaver
- **Kurzweil Educational Systems.** www.kurzweiledu.com Kurzweil 3000
- **Madentec Inc** www.madenta.com Tracker; DiscoverPro, Discover Envoy
- **Learning Magic** learningmagicinc.com Writing Activities
- **Matias Corporation** www.halfkeyboard.com One handed keyboard
- **Mayer Johnson Co.** www.mayer-johnson.com Speaking Dynamically Pro; BoardMaker+
- **MicroSoft Corporation** www.microsoft.com Power Point; MicroSoft Word
- **NexConcepts** www.nexconcepts.com PC Notetaker
- **Omni Group** www.omnigroup.com OmniGraffle, OmniOutliner
- **Onion Mountain Technology** www.onionmountaintech.com Writing Aids, Lottie Kits, The CIRCUIT
- **Origin Instruments/Assistiveware** www.orin.com/access Head Mouse; Keystrokes, Switch XS
- **Perfect Solutions Software Inc** www.perfectsolutions.com Laser PC; Writer
- **Premier Assistive Technology** www.readingmadeeasy.com Scan & Read Pro, Talking Dictionary
- **QuickPad Technology Corp** www.quickpad.com QuickPAD IR; QuickPAD Pro
- **Quillsoft** www.wordq.com WordQ, SpeakQ
- **River Deep** www.riverdeep.com Imagination Express; Stanley's Sticker Stories; Bailey's Book House

Assisted Writing Resources

- **SeikoSmart** Smart Pad 2
www.seikosmart.com
- **Slater Software** Picture It; Pix Writer
www.slatersoft.com
- **Spark-Space Ltd.** Spark Space
www.spark-space.com
- **TextHelp Systems Inc.** Read & Write Gold
www.texthelp.com
- **TFE: Technology For Education** The Writer, software
www.tfeinc.com
- **Therapro Inc.** Teaching Rings
www.theraproducts.com
- **Tom Snyder Inc.** Scholastic Keys
www.tomsnyder.com
- **Turning Point Therapy & Tech** Keyguards
www.turningpointtechnology.com
- **Vision's Technology in Education** Writer's Companion
www.writerscomp.com
- **Words +** EZ Keys, Abbreviate
www.words_plus.com
- **Zygo /Sensory** Grid, Prototype, Polycom
www.zygo-usa.com

Freeware Text to Speech Software

Browsealoud	Free - Web Site Speech Enabler - Win 95+	
Help Read	Free - Screen Reader - Win 3.1+	www.helpread.net/
Microsoft Reader PC	Free - Screen Reader - Windows	www.microsoft.com/reader
Read-E	Free one-year license - Text-to-Speech Reader -Win 98+	
Read Please	Free - Text-to-Speech Reader - Win 95+	
Screen Reader PC	Free - Screen Reader – Win	www.texthelp.com/screenreader.asp
Text Talkster PC	Free - Text-to-Speech Reader	www.webtalkster.com/text_talkster.htm
WeMedia	Free - Talking Browser - Win 95+	
Word Speak	Free - Text-to-Speech Reader - Mac	www.microsoft.com/mac/download