

Grades 6-12



Essentials for Writing

A Direct Instruction Program

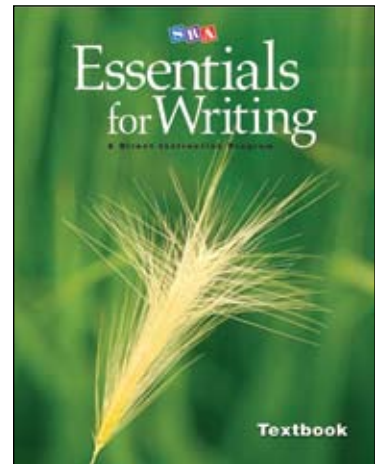


Develop the Writing
Competencies Your
**Students Need
to Succeed.**

Improve Writing Skills for Students in Grades 6-12

SRA Essentials for Writing provides the content, knowledge, and experience needed for students to meet graduation requirements in English language arts. It permits students to:

- Grasp the basics of grammar, language use, and mechanics
- Acquire the skills needed to become more precise and detailed in their writing
- Produce written work that contains pertinent and well-developed ideas, supporting examples, and appropriate details
- Increase achievement and experience real, long-term growth in their writing competencies



Checks give explicit criteria for assessing writing to students and teachers.

Lesson 34

A > Misleading Statements

Outline diagram

Statement _____ gives the impression that _____. That statement is misleading. According to the fact list, _____ [give one fact that contradicts the impression] _____. Also, _____ [tell more] _____.

Statement A The Clunkbocker offers very affordable, comfortable luxury rooms with fireplaces and beautiful furniture.

Checks

1. Did you follow the outline diagram?
2. Did you describe the impression the statement gives?
3. Did you use more than one fact that contradicts the impression the statement gives?
4. Did you make your passage convincing?

B > Thesaurus

1. Her garment was costly.
2. We like good food.

C Write about something you should not have done.

Outline diagram

First Paragraph: [Describe who was involved, when, where, and what happened.]

Next Paragraph: [Give enough information for the reader to know what happened.]

Sample Passage

I did something I should not have done last month. It happened in front of our house. Lenny said he needed five dollars to get gas for his car. He said his car was out of gas in the middle of the street. I didn't want to lend him the money, but I did.

He told me he would pay me back within two days. He hasn't paid me back yet. Every time I see him I remind him that he owes me five bucks. He says, "Oh, I'll have it for you in a couple of days." That's the last time I lend him any money.

Outline diagrams provide easy-to-understand organizational patterns for writing assignments.

Sample passages give students a strong model of writing that fits predetermined criteria.

Student Textbook

Bolster Instruction with Practice Software

Interactive student software reinforces and expands on mechanics taught in **Essentials for Writing**.

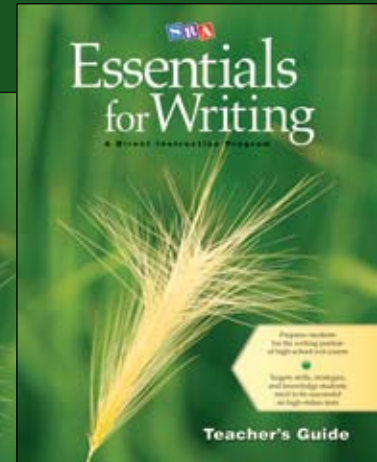
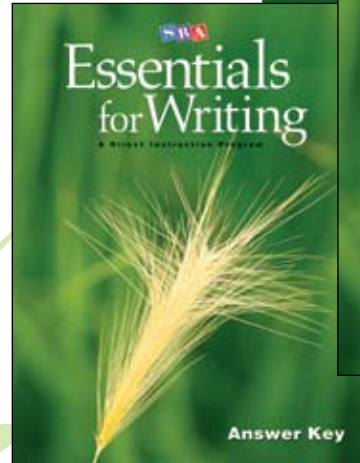


- Practice software offers extended review and practice for those students who need it most.
- Lessons cover a wide variety of topics such as punctuating direct quotations, the correct use of pronouns, and using commas appropriately.
- Activities resemble common formats of items on state tests to help students demonstrate mastery of skills usually practiced in more authentic ways.

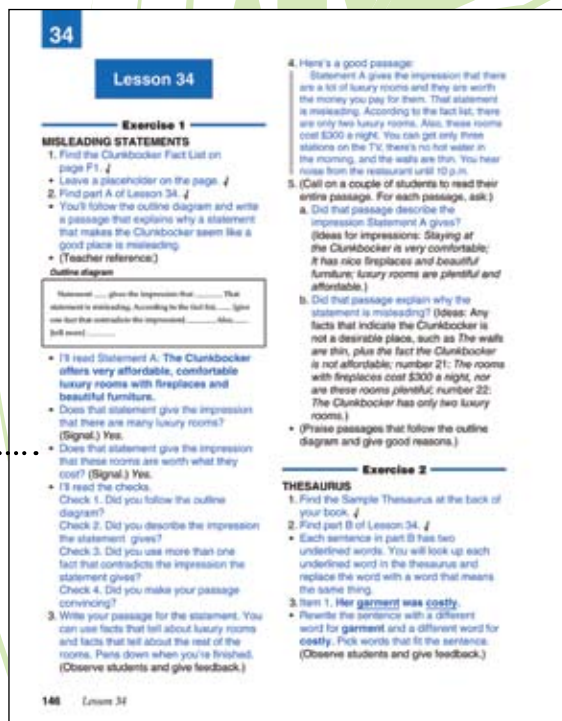
Develop Students into Confident, Independent Writers

The **Essentials for Writing Presentation Book, Teacher's Guide, and Answer Key** provide you with:

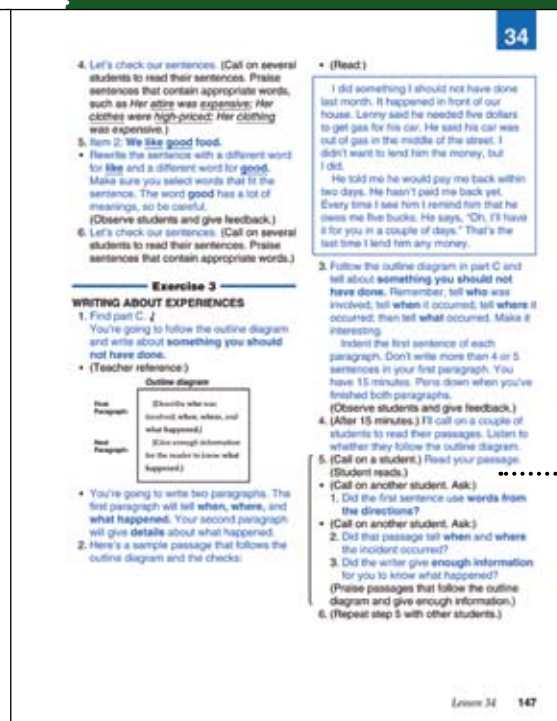
- Coherent, overall instructional design
- Logical organization of writing concepts
- Coordinated instructional sequences
- Appropriate student support
- Explicit criteria for assessing writing



Highly prompted activities help students write passages that are organized, to the point, and make sense.



Presentation Book



The group-edit process engages students and focuses their attention on attributes of good writing.

Teacher's Materials include:

- Presentation Book
- Teacher's Guide
- Answer Key
- One Copy of Practice Software

Engage and Motivate

Your At-risk Students

Designed for Middle and High School

SRA Essentials for Writing is specifically designed for students in Grades 6–12 who are at risk of failing to meet graduation requirements in English language arts. The program helps you teach skills that are essential for learning to write, as well as the complex behaviors needed to compose:

- Narrative passages
- Stories with a specific theme
- Descriptive essays
- Autobiographical sketches and biographies
- Responses to literature
- Persuasive arguments and position papers

User-friendly to Both the Teacher and the Student

Essentials for Writing has been shaped through extensive field testing and revision to ensure that lessons address the problems students typically encounter.

- Detailed lessons provide the improved structure and instructional strategies needed to teach writing effectively.
- Skill introduction is carefully sequenced and coupled with continuous review to ensure that students can easily complete writing assignments.
- A variety of stimulating writing prompts encourages students to find personal meaning in writing.
- Cumulative skills development and ongoing success improve student confidence.



A Fresh Approach to Instruction, Practice, and Application

Essentials for Writing is structured to support competence and retention:

- Concepts and skills are developed in small steps, but the program is organized in a holistic way that allows students to see how all of the parts fit together.
- Concepts are developed continuously as part of a span of 15–20 lessons; students apply the concepts on a daily basis so skills aren't forgotten.
- Because students truly master the skills, they continue to use them automatically even after moving on to new concepts.

Mechanics Meaningfully Integrated with Writing

The first fifteen lessons provide work on core writing skills such as sentence writing, grammar, usage, and punctuation skills. These lessons:

- Target common problems seen in student writing, such as subject-verb agreement and run-on sentences.
- Provide instruction on the appropriate use of capital letters, end marks, and commas.
- Show students how to manipulate language by expanding, rearranging, and combining sentences.

Develop the
Core Writing Skills
Your Students Need for High-stakes Testing



Build Writing Proficiency with Proven Structure and Process

Writing Activities to Help Students Write Passages that Read Well

The writing activities in each lesson are designed to help students produce writing that is organized, to the point, and makes sense to the target audience. Highly structured activities focus on specific skills and typically include:

- An introduction that prepares students for writing passages according to specific criteria
- Student writing supported by an organizational pattern
- Teacher reading of a model passage
- Sharing of some student passages
- Editing and revising

Initial Support that Builds Confidence

Outline diagrams provide easy-to-understand organizational patterns for writing assignments and key wording for writing specific sentences. As students become familiar with each type of composition, the diagrams contain fewer and fewer details, leading students towards independence as writers. This simple structure:

- Offers the same advantage as teaching students a beginning reading strategy.
- Gives everyone a common, concrete referent.
- Increases clarity because students are able to focus on communicating their ideas.
- Makes it easy to correct mistakes because expectations are clearly defined.



SRA Essentials for Writing provides the content, knowledge, and experience needed for students to meet graduation requirements in English language arts.

A Unique Group-edit Process

When students finish writing, they share what they have written and the teacher engages the class in comparing the passage to specific checks to test for errors. The prescribed checks serve to:

- Focus student attention on a range of skills – from sentence and paragraph structure, to grammar and punctuation.
- Help students apply the structure provided by outline diagrams to a broad range of writing assignments.
- Give everyone an opportunity to make changes to improve their passage.
- Save grading time while providing meaningful feedback – because teachers respond to and assess only the focus skills.

Motivation is Part of the Solution

Significant factors for stimulating student motivation are competence, confidence, and personal engagement. ***Essentials for Writing*** uses stimulating writing prompts that are relevant and meaningful to the older student, while highly organized lessons provide the structure and detail that permit students to:

- Grasp the basics of grammar, language use, and mechanics.
- Acquire the skills needed to become more precise and detailed in their writing.
- Produce written work that contains pertinent and well-developed ideas, supporting examples, and appropriate details.

Give Your Students the
Tools to Succeed
with High-interest Writing Prompts
and Meaningful Feedback





Essentials for Writing

A Direct Instruction Program

Discover the Writing Program
Designed to Develop Your At-risk Students
**into Motivated,
Proficient Writers:**

- 95 total lessons structured for a 55-minute class schedule
- 11 in-program mastery tests to assess student progress and pinpoint weaknesses
- Interactive software for extended practice of grammar, usage, and mechanics
- Appropriate for students at risk of failing to meet state examination or graduation requirements in English language arts

www.mheducation.com.au/essentials-for-writing