



SIM Learning Strategies: The Writing Strategies

The SIM Writing Strategies are evidence-based teaching tools that gradually release control from teacher to student to help students express themselves and master the writing skills required in most state standards across grades 2 through 12.

Writing is a complex skill that is often not given the attention needed for many students to become sophisticated, proficient writers. There are countless reasons teachers find writing difficult to teach. However, the reality is effective writing instruction requires explicit, scaffolded instruction with timely, descriptive feedback. SIM Writing Strategies provide scaffolded instruction and a progression of writing skills from the simple sentence, to a single paragraph, to multi-paragraph essays and themes. Each SIM writing strategy provides explicit, intentional, scaffolded instruction with descriptive feedback, mastery learning, progress monitoring, and generalization across all content areas.



Previously, students presented written pieces with non-cohesive sentence structures including four or five word sentences all beginning with "I like...". Since implementing this instructional model, students demonstrate understanding that each sentence must be unique and provide a subject and an action for the subject.



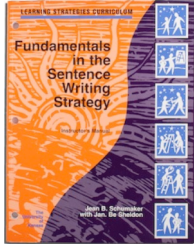
For in-depth descriptions of SIM instructional tools and interventions, please visit KUCRL's SIM website:

sim.ku.edu



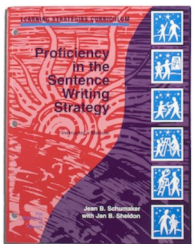
The Sentence Writing Strategies

The *Sentence Writing Strategy* comprises two parts: *Fundamentals in the Sentence Writing Strategy* and *Proficiency in the Sentence Writing Strategy*. Together, these components constitute a strategy for recognizing and writing 14 sentence patterns with four types of sentences: simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex. Each part consists of an Instructor's Manual and Student Lessons Manual(s). The Instructor's Manuals feature a systematic sequence of instructional procedures; the Student Lessons Manuals feature exercises that correspond to instructional procedures. As one example from a research study, results showed that students wrote an average of 65 percent complete sentences on the pretest and an average of 88 percent complete sentences on the post-test.



Fundamentals in the Sentence Writing Strategy (Grades 2+) helps student writers understand basic concepts of a complete sentence and terms, such as "subject," "verb," or "infinitive" by:

- identifying the five requirements of a complete sentence.
- identifying and understanding the role of linking verbs, infinitives, prepositional phrases, adjectives, main subjects, helping verbs, complete verbs, and adverbs.
- composing four types of simple sentences.

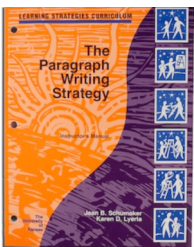


Proficiency in the Sentence Writing Strategy (Grades 3+) helps student writers learn advanced sentence writing skills, including writing simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences by:

- identifying and distinguishing the requirements of simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences.
- composing simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences.

The Paragraph Writing Strategy

Research on the *Paragraph Writing Strategy* showed that students earned an average of 40% of the points available when writing a paragraph on the pretest and an average of 71% of the points available when writing a paragraph on the post-test.



The Paragraph Writing Strategy (Grades 5+) helps student writers learn to write a well-organized paragraph by:

- listing ideas related to a topic.
- planning the point of view and verb tense to be used.
- planning the sequence in which ideas will be expressed.
- writing a variety of topic, detail, and clincher sentences.

“I have implemented *Fundamentals in Sentence Writing*. My students quickly improved from rarely using punctuation and capital letters to almost always using them. Also, they now better understand nouns and verbs.

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Star Writer: Paragraph Writing software uses a space odyssey plot to teach individual students paragraph writing skills.
Note: These programs use FLASH, which is no longer supported.

Star Writer: Fundamentals in Paragraph Writing teaches student writers how to:

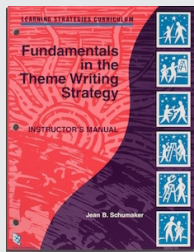
- plan and write a paragraph, including transitions and an internal structure.
- use consistent point-of-view and tense.

Star Writer: Proficiency in Paragraph Writing teaches students how to:

- write five types of paragraphs: instructive, narrative, informative, persuasive, and descriptive.
- plan and write a paragraph by seeing and hearing authors think aloud as they write plan and write paragraphs.

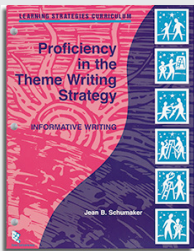
The Theme Writing Strategies

The SIM Theme Writing series encompasses four Instructor's Manuals that prepare students for writing-competency exams as well as the writing demands of general education courses. Before instruction begins, students must have mastered several foundational writing skills such as writing complete sentences, understanding basic concepts and terms like topic, detail, clincher sentences, point-of-view, tense, sequence, and transitions. These terms are used throughout Theme Writing Strategy instruction, and new concepts are built upon them as instruction proceeds.



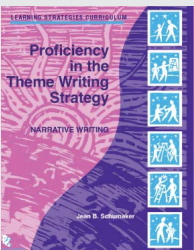
Fundamentals in Theme Writing Strategy (Grades 5+) helps student writers focus on the fundamental skills associated with writing themes by:

- explaining the parts of a theme.
- finding and adding subtopics.
- brainstorming, planning, and writing the concluding paragraph.
- writing detail sentences and graphics.



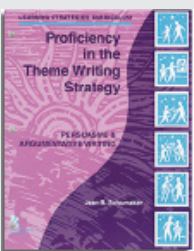
Proficiency in Theme Writing: Informative Writing (Grades 7+) enables student writers to write a research paper by showing them how to:

- conduct research, take notes, create reference lists, and write short multi-paragraph research essays that include in-text citations and quotations.
- organize information in multi-paragraphs.
- write a variety of research papers.



Proficiency in Theme Writing: Narrative Writing (Grades 7+) enables student writers to plan and write non-fiction stories, such as personal stories, biographical stories, journalistic stories, and historical stories by teaching:

- the elements of stories and analyzing the parts of stories.
- how to plan and write nonfiction and fiction stories.



Proficiency in Theme Writing: Persuasive and Argumentative Writing (Grades 7+) enables student writers to be persuasive and also use evidence to support their arguments by teaching how to plan and write:

- basic persuasive and argumentative themes with counterclaims.
- themes with examples garnered through research.

Star Writer: Theme Writing software uses a space odyssey plot to teach individual students theme writing skills.

Star Writer: Fundamentals in Theme Writing teaches student writers basic skills of theme writing by learning how to:

- write introductory, detail, and concluding paragraphs.
- think about and organize information.

Star Writer: Proficiency in Theme Writing teaches student writers how to:

- write three types of paragraphs: informative, persuasive, and narrative.
- write introductory, detail, and concluding paragraphs for each type of theme.

Professional Learning

KUCRL is committed to finding solutions to educational challenges and placing our research findings into the hands of practitioners, students, and researchers in the field. Our expansive network of dedicated professionals —the SIM International Professional Development Network — shares our values and goals for delivering high-quality professional learning with a partnership approach to educators around the world. These experts offer professional development, instructional coaching, and technical assistance to establish the necessary infrastructure support for educators to implement evidence-based practices.

Writing Mechanics

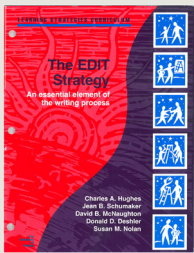
For each of these three interactive digital programs, teachers correct students' application of the strategies in their written sentences at the end of each lesson. Otherwise, the programs are self-paced and self-correcting. **Note:** These programs use FLASH, which is no longer supported.

The Capitalization Strategy helps students learn the rules of capitalization in four lessons that students can work through at their own pace. Students learn a simple poem that helps them remember the capitalization rules, and they learn a strategy for each rule.

The Commas Strategy helps students learn the sometimes confusing and complex rules in six lessons to enable them to use commas correctly in their writing. They learn a simple poem that helps them remember the comma rules and they learn a strategy for each rule.

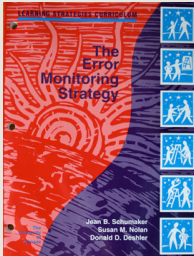
The Punctuation Strategy helps students learn the rules of punctuation in six lessons. Students learn a poem that helps them remember punctuation rules and they learn a strategy for each rule.

Strategies for Checking for Writing Errors



Edit Strategy (Grades 4+) helps student writers find and correct errors in capitalization, appearance, punctuation, and spelling by:

- learning to enter their first draft into a word processing program.
- performing spell check.
- running through questions related to capitalization, overall appearance, punctuation, and substance of the paper.
- making needed corrections.



Error Monitoring Strategy (Grades 7+) helps student writers learn to independently detect and correct errors in their hand-written work to increase the overall quality of their final product by:

- proofreading for content and mechanical errors.
- eliminating errors before work is submitted.
- developing personal strategies to avoid future errors.



InSPECT Strategy helps student writers detect and correct spelling errors using spellchecker by:

- learning to run spellchecker.
- selecting the correct suggested spelling or making a guess about the correct spelling.

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