

Dear Colleagues,

Precision Writing was developed by the creators of Precision Reading. Precision Writing is a series of short, daily writing activities designed to help students become skilled writers. The activities are organized into graduated cycles that may begin at any grade level above Grade 2. They can be used at all subsequent grade levels to the end of high school. Over time, these activities provide a solid foundation for writing in post-secondary education and employment. Precision Writing also can be used in adult education and in the education of students for whom English is an additional language. Finally, Precision Writing provides the kind of structure, practice, positive feedback and continuous improvement that reluctant and resistant writers, and students with learning and intellectual disabilities, often need to become successful writers.

There are several characteristics of Precision Writing that make it particularly attractive to educators. Precision Writing is designed to:

- coordinate with students' grade placement curricula and instruction - students write on curricular topics drawn from instructional themes, projects, activities and assignments,
- help teachers achieve both content outcomes (subject area knowledge) and process outcomes (skills in thinking and written expression) at the same time,
- add to, rather than subtract from, instructional time and efficiency in the classroom,
- closely reflect the (a) writing purposes, (b) information gathering and organizing methods, (c) higher order thinking skills, and (d) writing formats used in the subject area instruction,
- make writing less frustrating and more fun for students to learn and less stressful and more enjoyable for teachers to teach,
- help students acquire skills in both narrative and expository writing,
- be implemented as whole class instruction, small group instruction, or as an individual intervention,
- focus proactively on students' thinking and writing skills through guided and supported practice in a step-by-step, positive and progressive process that leads to greater productivity and a much higher quality of written work - Precision Writing does *not*

stigmatize students with a disability label, require segregated instruction, or focus on students' errors and lack of productivity,

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- help students measure their progress on a daily basis, which provides concrete proof of steady incremental improvement and is a source of personal motivation,
- support students in vocabulary acquisition, writing fluency, facility with more complex sentence patterns, and improved critical thinking skills - all transferrable to reading across subject areas, and
- inspire greater confidence in students, create greater automaticity in their writing, complement reading improvement, and enhance their knowledge of curricular vocabulary, concepts and themes.

Precision Writing was developed to help *all* students master the knowledge and skills that underlie the writing process. It is not a stand-alone writing remediation program. Rather, it is both a means to develop expertise in written expression *and* a vehicle for teaching curricular content in subject areas. In addition to improving the writing skills of students working at grade level, it is designed to bring low achieving writers up to grade level competency. In accordance with the principles of Universal Design, it is specifically designed to include and assist students:

- with low language development,
- who read below grade level,
- who are reluctant to write,
- who resist writing,
- who struggle with writing,
- with learning disabilities that affect language, communication, reading and/or writing,
- with intellectual disabilities, or
- for whom English is an additional language.

Precision Writing is not time-consuming or expensive. The daily activities are highly efficient and require only short periods of direct instruction. Everything you need to know is in the *Precision Writing: Instructors' Handbook*. All the strategies, scaffolds, templates and checklists employed as supports at each step in the writing process are contained in the companion *Precision Writing: Instructors' Sourcebook*.

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Precision Writing was co-developed by Dr. Rick Freeze, the creator of the highly successful *Precision Reading* program, and Trevi B. Freeze. Rick is a professor of Inclusive Education at the University of Manitoba. Trevi is the coordinator of the Campus Life Program at the University of Manitoba.

The Precision Writing books are normally sold as a set:

Precision Writing: Instructors' Handbook & Precision Writing: Instructors' Sourcebook	129.99 (per set of 2 books)
Shipping	<u>25.00</u>
Subtotal	154.99
Tax (5% GST, textbooks are PST exempt)	<u>7.75</u>
Total	162.74

However, they can be purchased separately:

Precision Writing: Instructors' Handbook	64.99
Shipping	<u>25.00</u>
Subtotal	89.99
Tax (5% GST, textbooks are PST exempt)	<u>4.50</u>
Total	94.49

Precision Writing: Instructors' Sourcebook	64.99
Shipping	<u>25.00</u>
Subtotal	89.99
Tax (5% GST, textbooks are PST exempt)	<u>4.50</u>
Total	94.49

Send your purchase order by email to:

Rick.Freeze@umanitoba.ca

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