

Precision Writing

Dear Colleagues,

Precision Writing was developed by the creators of the highly successful Precision Reading program. Similar to 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. Precision Writing provides the kind of structure, practice, positive feedback and continuous improvement that benefit all writers. However it is especially helpful with reluctant and resistant writers, and students with learning and intellectual disabilities. 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,
- support instructional 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,
- help students measure their progress on a daily basis,
- support students in vocabulary acquisition, writing fluency, facility with more complex sentence patterns, and improved critical thinking skills, 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.

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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. Over time, the Precision Writing program provides students at all grade levels with a solid foundation for writing in post-secondary education and employment. 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,
- for whom English is an Additional Language, or
- who are enrolled in adult basic education.

Precision Writing is not time-consuming or expensive. The daily activities are easy to teach and learn, and require only short periods of direct instruction. Precision Writing will make your instruction and assessment more effective, more efficient and easier to implement. Everything you need to know about how to do Precision Writing 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 (as reproducible forms) in the companion *Precision Writing: Instructors' Sourcebook*.

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

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Once you have received your Precision Writing books, ongoing support is available from the authors. We will promptly respond to your questions and comments. We can be reached by email at Rick.Freeze@umanitoba.ca or by telephone 10:00 am - 10:00 pm daily at (+01) 204-257-9905 (if you get the voicemail, please leave a message so we can return your call).

Thank you,

Rick Freeze

Trevi B. Freeze

Rick Freeze

Trevi B. Freeze

Professor
Inclusive Education
Faculty of Education
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba,
Canada, R3T 2N2

Director
Campus Life Program
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada, R3T 2N2

The Precision Writing books are normally sold as a set:

Precision Writing: Instructors' Handbook & Precision Writing: Instructors' Sourcebook \$ 139.98 (set of 2 books)
Shipping (reduced small business expedited parcel post rate, calculated at the time of your order)
Tax (add 5% GST, textbooks are PST exempt)

However, they can be purchased separately:

Precision Writing: Instructors' Handbook \$ 69.99
Shipping (reduced small business expedited parcel post rate, calculated at the time of your order)
Tax (add 5% GST, textbooks are PST exempt)

Precision Writing: Instructors' Sourcebook \$ 69.99
Shipping (reduced small business expedited parcel post rate, calculated at the time of your order)
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