



What We
Know About:

Writing Across the Curriculum

to Increase Student
Learning in Middle
and High School

Educational Research Service

Contents

Foreword	vii
Chapter One:	
Writing at the Middle and High School Levels	1
Writing to Support Content-Area Learning	3
Establishing a Strong Foundation for Writing Instruction	5
Chapter Two:	
Learning to Read and Learning to Write—	
Two Complementary Processes.....	7
Emergent Literacy	8
Reading and Writing as Interrelated Processes	9
Stages of Writing Development	10
Emergent Writing.....	11
Beginning Writing	11
Fluent Writing	12
Effective Literacy Instruction.....	12
Developing Students’ Motivation to Read and Write	13
Chapter Three:	
Teaching Writing—The Fundamentals	17
What Does Instruction that Supports Student Writing Look Like?	18
The Process Approach to Teaching Writing	22
Prewriting	24
Drafting	24
Editing and Revising	24
Publishing	26
Helping Students Develop Purpose and Ideas for Their Writing	26
Writing for an Audience	29
Teaching the Mechanics of Writing	30
Chapter Four:	
Strategies for Writing to Learn	33
Writing as a Pre-Reading Activity	35
Previewing Texts	36

Free Writes	36
Admit/Exit Slips	37
Journal Writing	38
Dialogue Journals	42
Reciprocal Teaching Journals	44
Learning Logs	45
Reflective Writing	48
Integrating Writing and Cooperative Learning	50
Other Strategies for Using Writing to Promote Learning	51
In Summary	55
Chapter Five:	
Writing in Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies	57
Using Writing in Mathematics Classes	57
Using Writing in Science Classes	61
Using Writing in Social Studies Classes	62
Chapter Six:	
Assessment of Student Writing:	
Purposes, Approaches, and Tools	67
Why Assess Student Writing?	67
Assessment as a Meaning-Making Process	69
Using Rubrics to Assess Student Writing	70
6+1 Traits of Student Writing	71
Other Rubrics for Writing	73
Involving Students in Developing Criteria Charts	74
Chapter Seven:	
Helping Struggling Writers	79
Making the Writing Experience Less Threatening	82
Some Common Problems	83
Addressing the Mechanics of Writing	85
Using Technology to Support Students	85
Helping Students Learn How to Evaluate Their Own Work	86
Chapter Eight:	
Taking a Schoolwide Approach	91
References	99
Index	105