



Perfect for 21st Century Skills

21st Century success will involve the acquisition of efficient communication skills.

The most essential are those skills that support structured writing strategies.

These writing strategies and skills are essential to both academic and professional success.

Using Technology to Develop Critical Thinking Skills

WriteBrain, a web based writing curriculum program, developed by Sunburst Technology, is a comprehensive writing curriculum solution for grades 2-12. The program scaffolds students through the entire writing process and provides writing opportunities in a variety of genre in which the six trait writing model is applied. Write Brain is Standards-based with assessment rubrics that allow students to self evaluate their work and teachers to assess individual needs. Students are using the WriteBrain Software to apply those critical thinking skills needed to take an idea to a well-structured published product.

Organizational Skills

Brainstorming

Planning strategy and skills are developed to activate to determine topics and to identify writing task. In this software, space for brainstorming is integrated into the story grammar or text structure template. In narrative texts, brainstorming can be used to think about different characters, about the setting and about the problems.

Organizing

Organizational skills are developed in accordance with the six trait model. Students learn to adjust their organization model to accommodate their task. With Write Brain, students can easily move from one organizing strategy to another without losing the information included in the original.

Drafting

Students learn to evaluate their writing using checklist and rubrics. Within Write Brain novice writers can start with drafting and then be encouraged to go back and reorganize or expand, depending on the rubric used. Mature writers and students who may write a considerable amount in an outline can keep this text when moving to drafting inside the software.

Analyzing, Evaluating, and Thinking Critically (Assessing and Revision)

Write Brain can require revision by assigning rubrics and checklists to be completed after specific stages of the process or on pre-determined dates. This approach helps student obtain evaluation skills and provides emerging and mature writers with the skills to revise at any stage in the process

Editing

Students acquire skills for finding, diagnosing and correcting surface features of the text such as spelling, punctuation, paragraphing and grammar. Functions supporting editing are available at any time in Write Brain and can be found through clicking the Edit icon. Examples of the common tools available are a spell-checker and a thesaurus.



Communicate Clearly and Publish

Write Brain assessments can be in the form of rubrics, checklists, or comments. The comments can form the basis for conferencing which research identifies as contributing to learning (Schunk, 2003). The assessment management system within WriteBrain provides the framework for clear defined communication between the teacher and each student as well as providing the environment for peer-collaboration. The total WriteBrain evaluation process makes students prepare and publish a well-written product.

Differentiated Instruction

Teaching writing today means differentiating instruction. This means that teachers must take into account the different academic and interest levels of students, as well as students' different learning styles and cultural backgrounds.(Wormeli, 2003). Write Brain facilitates differential instruction: lessons can be modified for small groups; tools such as the spellchecker and thesaurus can be turned on or off; and rubrics and checklists can be customized for specific groups of learners.

Adapted for Special Needs

Type to Learn 4 Agents of Information program allows for individualization of learning with differentiated instruction appropriate for: remedial learners, advanced learners, mentally challenged learners, and those with hearing or visual impairment. Also, Spanish instructions are included for second language speakers.

Visit sunburst.com or call **800.321.7511** for more information!