Targeting Instruction with Writing Coach Online

**Introduction**

This guide explores how you can use Writing Coach Online to provide personalized and interactive writing and grammar instruction.

This guide will describe various resources and lesson features that are available through Writing Coach Online. It also examines the Interactive Writing Coach, which provides immediate feedback and targeted instruction based on students’ writing.

If you’re brand new to Writing Coach Online and need help setting up your online account, you may want to begin by watching the SuccessNet Plus tutorials.

**Accessing Course Content**

As with the print materials, information on Writing Coach Online is divided between writing and grammar instruction. Content matches up with the way it is organized in your Teacher’s Edition—making it easy to use print and digital components together.

In addition to the course content, Writing Coach Online provides access to various teacher resources. Within the Teacher’s Digital Resources Library, you’ll find resources such as Student Model Blackline Masters and editable rubrics.

The Assessments folder provides access to writing and grammar tests including diagnostic pre-tests and grammar chapter tests. Within the Lesson Plans folder, there are customizable lesson plans for every chapter.

**eText**

The eText Student Edition provides all of the same information found in the print edition as well as access to interactive lesson features.
For example, the interactive glossary feature allows students to review the definition and hear the pronunciation of terms in the Word Bank.

Through the eText, students can listen to audio versions of the Mentor Text and Student Model as they read. They can also highlight the text or insert notes. As a teacher, you have the ability to leave notes that can be shared with students. There is also point-of-use access to other interactive features, such as instructional videos.

And through Writing Coach Online, you can assign Try it! activities to be completed in the students’ online journals.

If you are working with an interactive whiteboard, you may want to switch to whiteboard view when presenting to a class.

The interactive eText is a great place to start as you are getting to know Writing Coach Online.

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<th>Pre-Test and Prompts for Progress Monitoring</th>
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<td>Writing Coach Online’s assessment-driven writing path provides instant feedback, leveled instruction, and valuable progress monitoring information.</td>
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<td>At the beginning of the school year, assign the writing pre-test to get a sense of students’ current level of performance. Results of the pretest determine each student’s learner level. Remember that the teacher can manually adjust a student’s learner level at any time.</td>
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<td>When you assign a leveled activity, students will then automatically receive the version that matches up with their learner level.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Each writing chapter includes a Prompt for Progress Monitoring. These genre-specific prompts can be administered at the end of each writing chapter. Results will automatically re-adjust each student’s learner level.</td>
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As students plan for the feature assignment, they have access to leveled graphic organizers. These leveled graphic organizers meet the needs of Below Level, On Level, and Above Level students.

When planning a persuasive writing piece, students who need the most support can start by viewing Learn About It! This feature demonstrates how to use the graphic organizer to logically organize the main arguments.

The Try It! feature goes a step further by giving students a chance to apply what they have learned. Students practice working with the organizer as they determine where sample statements, such as the thesis statement or alternative arguments, best fit.

When they are ready, students use Apply It! to complete their own organizer for the assignment. Your above-level students might start with this step.

When students are ready to begin writing their essay for the Feature Writing Assignment, they will use the Interactive Writing Coach.

Once the student selects a topic from the topic bank, a blank writing template appears. The menu on the right provides genre-specific instructions for each step in the writing process.
For example, the Prewriting bar may include a sample graphic organizer, a video about anticipating reader’s needs, and Strategies for Advanced Writers.

Students may choose to get feedback at the paragraph level before submitting the complete draft for review. Paragraph feedback uses a simple, three-point scale to assess topic focus, topic development, and organization. Students also receive feedback about sentence variety, word choice, and editing.

When students complete their draft, they click the Get Feedback button at the bottom of the essay to get instant feedback. In addition to receiving an overall score on a six-point scale, students receive focused feedback on six traits of writing: Ideas, Organization, Conventions, Sentence Fluency, Word Choice, and Voice.

Feedback includes a detailed explanation for each score and suggestions about how students can improve their writing. Students can also refer to Tips from Your Writing Coach for writing strategies, brief instructional videos, and models that demonstrate how other writers applied various strategies.

The Interactive Writing Coach allows students to submit their written work multiple times. This way they have many chances to incorporate feedback and improve their work before sharing it with a teacher or peer.

**Additional Writing Prompts**

Writing Coach Online also includes writing for assessment prompts. These prompts provide extra practice for students as they prepare for timed or on-demand writing assessments. Students receive a holistic score for these essays on a four- or six-point scale.

Teachers can also create their own writing prompt or customize any existing prompt. Prompts that are created or customized will only receive a holistic score.
**Grammar Support**

Writing Coach Online also provides personalized grammar support. Teachers can manually assign specific grammar activities, or they can select the auto-assigned, personalized grammar study plan.

For custom assigning, select the Custom Contents folder. Here you can assign the chapter's diagnostic test. Based on the results of this test, you can then manually assign content such as the Student eText, Practice Exercises, or Grammar Tutorials.

If you would prefer to have the system automatically assign grammar activities, select the Auto-Assign: Assessment-Driven Lessons folder. Students will automatically be assigned the chapter diagnostic test. Based on the results, Writing Coach Online creates a personalized study plan for each student. The plans typically include practice tests and grammar tutorials.

After the student completes his or her personalized study plan, or when a student has completed the activities assigned by his or her teacher, the teacher can assign the Chapter Test to monitor progress and identify additional remediation activities.

Through Writing Coach Online, students also have access to Dimension L. This multiplayer video game gives students a chance to hone their grammar skills in a fun, engaging format.

**Additional Resources**

In order to support research writing assignments, Writing Coach Online provides access to Pearson SourceCheck and My Search Lab.

Teachers can check for plagiarism with Pearson SourceCheck's plagiarism-detection tool. This resource checks written work against millions of Internet essays as well as a database of school essays. It can be used with every writing mode that is included in the program.

MySearchLab provides up-to-date formatting guidelines including support for documenting sources.
This guide explained how Writing Coach Online provides interactive lesson features and personalized, targeted instruction. It took a look at some of the Teacher Resources and then examined the features available through the Student eText. This guide also explored the assessment-driven writing path and saw how the Interactive Writing Coach provides immediate, targeted feedback. Writing Coach Online provides personalized grammar instruction for every student. Finally, the guide discussed two additional resources that support research writing and help to prevent plagiarism.