Learning Through Written Expression
The Easy-to-Use Literacy Tool to Improve Both Reading Comprehension & Writing Skills

With this complete online assessment and instruction tool, teachers, administrators, and others in your school system will save time and better serve the needs of struggling readers, writers, and English language learners. Based on years of research and trusted educational technology, WriteToLearn® engages students and provides flexible, easy-to-use and effective writing assessment and instruction.

WriteToLearn is the only online writing tool to include both components:

- Summary writing — to develop reading comprehension
- Essay writing — to build writing skills

This combination was developed to reinforce the required interplay between reading and writing; the bedrock of literacy. WriteToLearn allows students to build reading as well as writing skills through frequent, consistent practice with feedback for improvement. In addition, WriteToLearn addresses ALL of the recommendations included in Carnegie’s Reading Next and Writing Next reports.

Proficiency statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Studies have shown that only 32% of 8th graders and 38% of 12th graders were considered proficient in Reading. Only 25% of high school seniors and 33% of 8th graders were considered proficient in writing. SOURCE: Nation’s Report Card for Reading, National Center for Education Statistics.

Grade Level Reading Writing

8th 32% 33%
12th 38% 25%
A Complete Online Tool

WriteToLearn is a complete online tool for building writing skills and developing reading comprehension for students in grades 4-12. This innovative web-based tool provides students the opportunity to practice their essay writing and summary writing skills. The technology built into WriteToLearn instantly assesses student work by evaluating the meaning of text, not just grammar and spelling.

With WriteToLearn, teachers can assign students more writing practice while reducing time spent on laborious editing and scoring. As a result, they can spend more time on lesson planning and focused, individualized instruction.

About WriteToLearn

Flexible

• Choose from nearly 1000 reading passages and over 400 essay topics or create your own
• Access it remotely from a computer with an internet connection—in the classroom, lab, or home
• View scores instantly for one student or an entire classroom
• Adjust scoring to meet the learning goals of a class
• Address the needs of struggling readers, writers, and English language learners with built-in language tools

Effective

• Interactive writing feedback and supportive language tools provide scaffolds to facilitate the learner’s development
• Enhance learning at all proficiency levels through read aloud, dictionary, and spot translation tools
• Receive research-based automated scoring

Easy to Use

• Engage students with essay topics and reading passages across the curriculum
• Motivate students with instant scoring and feedback
• Review each student’s work and include individualized comments
• Teachers spend less time on grading through automated scoring
How WriteToLearn Works

Practice Summarizing & Writing Essays Across the Curriculum

The best way to increase one’s reading and writing skills is through hands-on practice. The more the better! WriteToLearn fosters both of these reciprocal skills through essay writing and summary writing activities—the single best activity for developing reading comprehension.

To strengthen both reading comprehension and writing skills, WriteToLearn includes two key student activities:

Summary Writing — Students read and summarize passages from across subject areas. While reading the passage, students can access WriteToLearn’s built-in language tools, including text-to-speech throughout the product, an embedded cross-language dictionary, spot word translation, and new translated instructions and student feedback in both Spanish and Chinese. These tools are designed to support struggling readers, writers, and English language learners and the read aloud, dictionary, and spot word translation tools to aid in their comprehension. WriteToLearn evaluates what students write, and gives them feedback on how well they covered the main ideas in the reading passage. Many of the passages include the “Hints” feature, which links to specific tips that emphasize important ideas that students may have missed when reading. Students also receive feedback about the length, copying, spelling, and redundant and irrelevant content of their writing.

Essay Writing — Students respond to thought-provoking topics by writing essays. When students submit their essays, WriteToLearn immediately provides an overall score and scores for six traits of writing: Ideas, Organization, Conventions, Sentence Fluency, Word Choice and Voice. Students can click on the individual traits to receive instruction that will help them improve their writing. Editing tools help students with spelling, grammar and redundant information.

Summary writing activities are automatically scored. WriteToLearn evaluates how much content has been copied, which helps students summarize in their own words.

Automated essay scoring gives students instant feedback, including scores and comments on spelling, grammar and redundant information. Students click on each trait to receive additional instruction.
Designed for Success

Based on years of research, WriteToLearn was designed to:

• Encourage students with fun and motivating summary writing and essay writing activities with immediate feedback and suggestions for improvement
• Save teachers time on grading through effective automated scoring
• Provide teachers and administrators with real-time assessments of individual student progress as well as classroom improvement

Encourage, instruct, and reward progress in reading and writing as each student practices these skills. WriteToLearn is a complete tool to help students achieve academic success by developing critical reading and writing skills that are also essential for real-world success.

Struggling Students Receive Extra Help

WriteToLearn addresses the needs of a diverse set of learners with reading comprehension and writing activities. Struggling readers and writers receive the help they need to understand and complete activities with built-in tools that simulate one-on-one tutoring. WriteToLearn benefits all students, including those in programs such as:

• Title I
• Special Education (IDEA)
• Response to Intervention
• Learning disabled and at-risk learners
• English language learners
For ALL Students

Engage, Motivate & Improve Skills

WriteToLearn is for ALL students, from the struggling student to gifted student and every student in between, including English language learner and special education populations. Through WriteToLearn’s web-based summary and essay writing activities, students receive real-time, automated feedback on their reading comprehension and writing skills. These features enhance the learning process so students experience faster progress and improvement on their scores.

WriteToLearn’s built-in language tools act as a personal tutor to help alleviate reading difficulties, and include text-to-speech throughout the product, an embedded cross-language dictionary, spot word translation, and new translated instructions and student feedback in both Spanish and Chinese. With a click, the student hears the phrase read aloud at the same time the text is highlighted on screen. The combination of video and audio input has been shown to improve comprehension for struggling students, and it assists English language learners, as well.

In addition, teachers can customize scoring parameters to meet the learning goals of each class, making WriteToLearn an ideal tool for learners at all levels.

With the read aloud function, students can click to hear text read aloud. With this capability, as well as spot word translation and dictionary tools, struggling readers and English language learners can improve more rapidly.

This screen appears immediately upon submitting a summary assignment. The colorful scoreboard shows where improvements can be made, and provides suggestions for revisions, including the Hint feature shown above. Teachers can turn hints off if they desire.
WriteToLearn includes nearly 1000 reading passages from popular Pearson imprints such as Scott Foresman’s Reading Street series for Social Studies and Science. Many are designed for English language learners, with specific passages for English Language Development. It also features over 400 essay prompts with topics such as community and global issues and using the Internet for research.

The papers they wrote were just fabulous! It blew my mind. They finished them in a day and a half instead of two weeks, and they were working on them at home, too.

Perry Justice, Special Education Teacher
Troutman Middle School, North Carolina

Benefits
- Provide engaging, targeted assignments and immediate feedback to motivate students
- Easy-to-use web-based activities and real-time reports save time for more productive instruction with students
- Address the needs of struggling readers, writers, and English language learners with built-in language tools
- Customizable activities and scoring features address diverse student proficiencies

WriteToLearn’s built-in language tools include text-to-speech throughout the product, an embedded cross-language dictionary, spot word translation, and new translated instructions and student feedback in both Spanish and Chinese, and are designed to help struggling readers, writers, and English language learners improve more rapidly.
Features

• Built-in language supports
  – Text-to-speech throughout the product
  – Embedded cross-language dictionary
  – Spot word translation
  – New translated instructions and student feedback in both Spanish and Chinese
• Adjustable passing thresholds to facilitate progress and meet the learning goals of all students

Summary Writing

• Immediate summary scoring with targeted feedback
• Editing tools check and instruct students on:
  – Copying from the reading passage
  – Spelling
  – Redundancy
  – Irrelevancy
• Student portfolios
• Teachers can annotate comments on student work
• Selected summary activities include hints as a scaffolding tool to facilitate the learner’s development

Essay Writing

• Immediate essay scoring and instructional feedback
• Overall score and scores on six popular traits of writing
• Detailed instructional feedback on six traits of writing
• Editing tools evaluate and instruct students on:
  – Spelling
  – Grammar
  – Redundant content
• Student portfolios
• Teachers can annotate comments on student work
Save Time, Grade Less & Focus on Teaching

There is much more to WriteToLearn than just writing. In fact, the product leverages the reciprocal nature of reading and writing and was specifically designed to improve both writing and reading comprehension. WriteToLearn’s instant, automated scoring allows teachers to spend less time grading and editing student work and enables them to increase the amount of writing practice students receive much more than ever before.

WriteToLearn scores student work instantly, and the easy-to-understand reporting allows teachers to target their instruction and spend more time one-on-one with students. With so many opportunities to read and write and to receive immediate, targeted feedback from teachers and from WriteToLearn, students improve their skills dramatically.

Benefits

- Spend less time grading through reliable automated scoring
- See students of all levels engaging in summary and essay writing activities
- Quickly review progress of individual students as well as classes
- Support targeted assistance programs with tailored and/or custom activities
- Receive additional support for struggling students, including non-native learners, through built-in language tools
- See informative and meaningful graphic reports in real time
- Assign summarizing and essay activities across the curriculum
- Improve reading and writing scores

Some of my students will stumble over larger vocabulary words. They appreciate having the [built-in language] resources at their fingertips, rather than having to ask for help in pronouncing and defining words.

Debbie Craven, Special Education Teacher
Troutman Middle School, North Carolina
Instruction Features

- Activities include nearly 1000 reading passages, and over 400 essay topics plus the ability to create your own
- Essay activities are evaluated holistically or holistically and on six popular traits of writing: Ideas, Organization, Conventions, Sentence Fluency, Word Choice, and Voice. Feedback is also provided on grammar, spelling, and redundancy
- Summary writing activities evaluate how well students covered the main ideas in the reading passage. WriteToLearn also provides feedback on copying from the text, spelling, redundancy, and irrelevancy
- Portfolios contain student work for review by teachers, parents, administrators, and students
- Built-in language tools—including read aloud text, spot word translation, embedded cross-language dictionary, and new translated instructions and student feedback in both Spanish and Chinese—enable success for struggling readers, writers, and English language learners

Assessment Features

- Receive essay and summary scores in real time
- Easy-to-understand reports show individual and class performance on all assigned activities
- Add personalized comments on students’ work
- Adjustable settings tool allows teachers to customize activities to better meet the learning goals of all students
  - Define the number of attempts available to students
  - Curtail grammar and spelling feedback that is displayed
  - Adjust passing thresholds for overall and for trait scores on essay writing activities and similar adjustments for summary writing activities
  - Allow or disallow built-in language tool support such as read-aloud or translation
  - Provide hints to facilitate the learner’s development of summary writing
  - Adjust the minimum/maximum length of essays and summaries

Teachers can quickly view individual and class performance on an activity. WriteToLearn provides data on reading comprehension, and issues with copying, redundancy and irrelevancy.
Professional Development for Educators

WriteToLearn professional development brings a personalized approach to realizing the full potential of the program. Our Educational Consultants become a school’s partner throughout the implementation, and will be there to walk through each unique dimension and situation used to deploy WriteToLearn in their classrooms. And because WriteToLearn accommodates ALL students—ranging from gifted to ELL to special education to those whose reading and writing skills simply need improvement—our professional development offers solutions to match.

English Language Learners

WriteToLearn professional development focuses on strategies that address the language challenges new English language learners encounter and offers support to help them improve more rapidly.

Its built-in language tools act as a personal tutor to students, supporting struggling readers, writers, and English language learners. Tools include text-to-speech throughout the product, an embedded cross-language dictionary, spot word translation in Spanish, and new translated instructions and student feedback in both Spanish and Chinese.

Mainstream Populations

Educational technologies are most effective when they go hand-in-hand with classroom lessons and activities, so WriteToLearn professional development offers concrete plans and ideas to get started integrating the program into mainstream curriculum.

Target populations are identified and program goals are set, including improving writing and reading comprehension skills and a focus on test preparation. Along with development of the consulting plan, consultants will help users learn how to track usage and student progress so successes and improvement with the program can be measured.

Additional Markets

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act mandates that states must provide students with disabilities with free and appropriate public education and include these students in mandated assessments.

WriteToLearn professional development focuses on strategies that address special education challenges that students with disabilities face. Consultants will assist with a step-by-step approach to teaching the core standards tailored to students who are struggling with basic core reading and writing skills. This allows teachers the flexibility to adjust scoring parameters to meet learning goals and provides consultation on strategies to succeed.
For Administrators

Improve Scores in Reading & Writing

Every school administrator wants to see improvement in mandatory state test scores. By providing more reading and writing practice across the curriculum, WriteToLearn helps schools achieve their goals.

WriteToLearn is the only online writing tool to provide automated scoring and immediate feedback to improve both reading comprehension and writing for students in grades 4-12. For learners at all levels—including English language learners—WriteToLearn provides well-researched technology and built-in tools that have been shown to improve scores and support overall student literacy.

Benefits

• Reinforce reading comprehension and writing skills across subject areas
• Ease grading burdens on teachers, enabling more time for one-on-one instruction
• Provide a single solution for writing and reading comprehension in grades 4-12, including Title I, learning disabilities, and more
• Prepare students for college by building critical reading and writing skills
• Improve student performance on mandatory state tests

Features

• Research-based automated scoring in real time
• Interactive interface prevents boredom in students
• Serves as a college prep tool
• Available online any time with easy-to-understand reports to evaluate progress at the student, classroom, and school levels
• Over 400 essay topics across genres, plus the ability to create new topics
• Nearly 1000 reading passages across subject areas for students to read and summarize including passages from popular Pearson imprints such as Prentice Hall’s World Studies and Science Explorer and Scott Foresman’s Reading Street series
• Built-in language tools—including read aloud text, spot word translation, embedded cross-language dictionary, and new translated instructions and student feedback in both Spanish and Chinese—enable success for struggling readers, writers, and English language learners
• Customizable activities and scoring parameters for teachers

WriteToLearn is truly a 21st century tool that engages digital learning in the writing process. I am inspired by students who once struggled to write a paragraph, who now write pages at proficient levels.

Jeff James, Principal
Troutman Middle School, North Carolina
For School Boards

Facilitate Improvement & Support Funding

Facilitate district-wide improvements and meet the requirements of federal programs with WriteToLearn’s flexible tools. Its summary and essay writing activities span multiple subject areas — Language Arts, Science, Social Studies and History. With a proven record of success, WriteToLearn supports “No Child Left Behind” Adequate Yearly Progress and funding requests for Title I, Title II, Title III, Title V and IDEA programs.

Benefits

- Flexible tools help manage assignments, monitor progress, and evaluate results in real time
- Customizable scoring parameters accommodate a range of learning abilities
- Reading passages span multiple subject areas, including history, social studies, science and language arts, for grades 4-12
- Use of WriteToLearn improved reading and writing skills as demonstrated on state exam scores in Colorado classrooms

When I visit classrooms around the district, I am amazed at the new enthusiasm for writing that I see when students are practicing with WriteToLearn.

Pat Kearns, Ph.D., Director of Academic Standards, Professional Development & Career Pathways Cherokee County School District, Georgia
WriteToLearn offers students an engaging and motivational environment for practicing and refining their writing and reading comprehension skills.

For Parents

Easily Review & Discuss Student Work

WriteToLearn provides student reports and writing portfolios that are ideal for use at parent-teacher conferences. Individual student portfolios and scores are easy to access and understand. The colorful visuals allow parents to quickly identify problem areas and support their child’s learning at home.

Benefits

• Students and teachers can easily access and share writing portfolios
• Graphic reports help identify where students need the most support
The minimum system requirements for using WriteToLearn are:

**Windows**
- Windows XP, Vista, Windows 7
- 512 MB RAM (minimum)
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 7.0 or higher, Firefox 3.5 or higher
- JavaScript enabled
- Flash plug-in 9.0 or higher

**Macintosh**
- OS X 10.5 or newer
- 512 MB RAM (minimum)
- Firefox 3.5 or higher, Safari 5.0 or higher (cookies are required in Safari for the text-to-speech feature)
- JavaScript enabled
- Flash plug-in 9.0 or higher

**Monitor Resolution**
- 1024 x 768 (minimum)

**Bandwidth**
- 512 Kb/sec (minimum) if using the text-to-speech feature and 256 Kb/sec (minimum) otherwise

Accessing & Using WriteToLearn is Easy

With a flexible, easy-to-use web-based system, WriteToLearn can be used in a variety of locations, from classrooms and computer labs to laptops and home computers. In general, students, teachers, and administrators can log in to WriteToLearn from most Windows and Macintosh computers with current operating systems, web browsers, and plug-ins.

The hosted application reduces equipment and labor costs while also reducing teacher workloads. It’s a win-win solution for school districts, saving time and money with minimal effort and maximum results.

Accessing WriteToLearn

Students, teachers and administrators can log in to WriteToLearn from any computer with current software and Internet access, including those located in:
- Classrooms
- Computer labs
- Homes
- Offices
- Administrative centers
- School board rooms
- Libraries

Teacher Support

Teachers and administrators can learn more about how WriteToLearn supports their needs across the curriculum and the spectrum of learning abilities. For details about conferences, webinars and other opportunities, please visit School.WriteToLearn.net.
Supported by Research

WriteToLearn supports the topmost effective teaching strategies for reading and writing as identified in Writing Next and Reading Next reports:

- Teaching students strategies for planning, revising, and editing their compositions
- Teaching students how to summarize texts
- Direct, explicit comprehension instruction
- Effective instructional principles embedded in content

WriteToLearn gives immediate, specific feedback that helps students practice writing through review and edit cycles.

Using the essay writing component of WriteToLearn, students posted 11% to 90% gains in proficiency on state and district tests. Over four studies, students experienced an average increase in proficiency of 46%, demonstrating that the key to success is writing and revising with immediate, customized feedback.

Using the summary writing component, students’ reading comprehension (as measured by a standardized reading comprehension test) improved in direct relationship to WriteToLearn’s use. The bottom 75% of the distribution improved by a grade level. Benefits of using the summarization component have been empirically documented, as well.

As judged by blind human raters who did not know whether WriteToLearn was used versus a word processor, students:

- Spent twice as much time with the online tool versus a word processor
- Included fewer irrelevant details
- Produced superior summaries with better organization and stylistic quality
Development of WriteToLearn

Based on a computer model called Latent Semantic Analysis, WriteToLearn measures the semantic similarity of words, much like a human scorer would. Pearson translated this into an educational tool that underlies WriteToLearn.

- Based on over 15 years of research and evaluation at the University of Colorado and New Mexico State University
  - Five years as part of an IERI research and effectiveness trial project at the University of Colorado
  - Twelve years of research, software development, and testing in Pearson’s Knowledge Technologies group
- Developed with the Colorado Literacy Tutor Project and field-tested across schools in Colorado
- Funded by the U.S. Institute of Education and the National Science Foundation

WriteToLearn has made a big difference in the amount of writing that the kids do in my room. I love it, and the kids love it because it gives them instant feedback.

Stephanie Allen, 7th Grade
Life Science & Social Studies Teacher
Dean Rusk Middle School, Georgia
WriteToLearn Addresses Educational Legislation

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds make it possible for educators to invest in innovative strategies that help build writing skills, develop reading comprehension and close the achievement gap.

With research-based technology powering rigorous reading and writing activities, WriteToLearn is the right solution for school improvement and reform. It helps schools address four key areas authorized under ARRA legislation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARRA school improvement &amp; reform</th>
<th>The WriteToLearn solution</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assessments:</strong></td>
<td>• Enables more student-teacher time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making progress toward rigorous college- and career-ready standards and high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable for all students, including English language learners and students with disabilities.</td>
<td>• Automated, research-based assessments</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Delivers consistent, rigorous instruction (grades 4-12)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Provides immediate feedback on six traits of writing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Data Systems:</strong></td>
<td>• Analyzes results with easy-to-interpret reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishing preK to college and career data systems that track progress and foster continuous improvement.</td>
<td>• Accesses individual and class performance reports in real time</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Supports student achievement and improvement through immediate, targeted feedback</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Teacher Effectiveness:</strong></td>
<td>• Increases exposure to reading and writing practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making improvements in teacher effectiveness and in the equitable distribution of qualified teachers for all students, particularly students who are most in need.</td>
<td>• Simplifies grading and editing tasks, which saves time</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Focuses efforts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Includes activities with Lexile® measurements</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Interventions:</strong></td>
<td>• Makes measurable improvements in reading comprehension scores</td>
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<tr>
<td>Providing intensive support and effective interventions for the lowest-performing schools.</td>
<td>• Enhances student scores on state tests for reading and writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Engages all levels of learners to maximize intervention effectiveness</td>
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Common Funding Sources

- State and local technology funds
- State and local curriculum funds
- Title I: Part A, Section 1003(g) — School Improvement and Part C — Migrant Education
- Title II, Part D — Enhancing Education Through Technology
- Title III — English Language Acquisition
- Title V — Innovative Programs
- Title VII — Native American Education
- Race to the Top
- Striving Readers Grant
- Carl Perkins Vocational
- IDEA — Special Education funds
- High school reform funding
- Remediation funds
- Alternative education funds
- PTA funds

WriteToLearn is great for our school, because it engages students through the use of technology into processes that we want them involved in — writing, editing and thinking through their writing.

Dr. Adrian Thomason, Principal
Dean Rusk Middle School, Georgia

Experience, Understand & Connect

- Try WriteToLearn
- Watch informative videos
- Review case studies
- Connect with WriteToLearn

visit www.WriteToLearn.net today!