

Expressive Writing I and II

Expressive Writing I and II is used with students who are below their grade level in reading and writing. It is similar to *Reasoning & Writing* in that it uses stories to teach and both are also scripted.

Expressive Writing I

Expressive writing is designed so that it can be taught to all students who qualify. All students who enter the program will learn the beginning and most important writing skills.

Expressive Writing I is appropriate for students who have not had previous instruction in expressive writing and who perform on the third-grade level in reading.

The length of time each lesson takes varies – depending on how long students take to complete the corresponding exercises. Generally, 45 minutes is a long enough time period for the student to complete any given lesson.

In each lesson, students practice sentence-writing skills, paragraph-writing skills and editing. The lessons are designed to reinforce what the student has already learned and adding new material on top of that.

There are 50 lessons in this program. Each lesson provides structured activities for teaching basic writing skills. These specific skills are divided into tracks, and during each lesson, students work on each track. The tracks are as follows:

1. Mechanics (punctuation, capitalization, indenting paragraphs, etc)
2. Sentence writing
3. Paragraph writing
4. Editing

Examples of mechanics are copying accurately, reading passages written in cursive, and capitalizing the first word in a sentence. Examples of sentence writing are identifying the subject of a sentence, identifying the predicate of a sentence, and completing sentences. Examples of paragraph writing are completing paragraphs that refer to pictured scenes, and writing paragraphs that report on an individual in an illustration. Examples of editing are correcting mistakes on capitalization and punctuation, correcting run-on sentences, and correcting sentences with present tense verbs.

Expressive Writing I teaches the most fundamental rules about translating observations into sentences, about writing paragraphs that do not stray from a topic, and about editing one's own works as well as the works of others.

Teachers need to have a general understanding of “good writing”, because it helps the teacher to determine where to start teaching and which skills to stress. Here are a few rules about good writing:

- Good writing is clear
- Good writing expresses exactly what the writer wishes to express
- Good writing is efficient and not highly redundant
- Good writing follows basic grammar and, more importantly, rules of the modern writing ‘style.’ **

The above rules hold true no matter what type or style of writing is taking place – science fiction, novellas, or even marketing plans. In order for a student to become a good writer, what s/he learns at first will influence their approach to writing. A beginner writer needs to pay attention to the following skills:

- Clearly expressing thought in basic sentences – sentences that first name somebody and then tell more (such as what the person did)
- Organizing paragraphs so they present a single topic
- Writing with fluency and then rereading for errors
- Applying basic rules of grammar and style **

Expressive Writing II

Expressive Writing II is appropriate for: students who have been through Expressive Writing I or students who have not been through Expressive Writing I, but who can: read on at least a beginning fourth grade level; read and write cursive; copy simple sentences at the rate of 15 words per minute; and write in a way that shows an understanding of appropriate language patterns. **

There are 45 lessons in the regular program. For those who have not gone through *Expressive Writing I* there is a preprogram that consists of 10 lessons. The length of time each lesson takes varies – depending on how long students take to complete the corresponding exercises. Generally, 45 minutes is a long enough time period for the student to complete any given lesson.

Expressive Writing II teaches the rules for creating simple declarative sentences. The regular program focuses on the following skills:

1. Writing clearly (using pronouns clearly and including all details that are necessary for clarity).
2. Writing with a variety of sentences – sentences that begin with a dependent clause, sentences that contain a series and some compound sentences.
3. Writing what people say an appropriately paragraphing their conversations.
4. Editing for clarity, punctuation, paragraphs and sentence forms.

Expressive Writing II program contains 10 preprogram lessons (for new students only) and 45 lessons (for all students). Each lesson provides structured activities for teaching basic writing skills, which are divided into tracks. These tracks are worked on during each lesson. The tracks are as follows:

1. Mechanics (punctuation, capitalization, indenting paragraphs, etc)
2. Sentence Writing
3. Paragraph Writing
4. Editing

Examples of Mechanics are indenting the first word of paragraphs, punctuating sentences, and paragraphing passages with direct quotes. Examples of Sentence Writing are writing sentences that begin with dependent clauses, sentences that list and sentences that tell the exact words that somebody said. Examples of Paragraph and Story Writing are writing passages that include direct quotes, completing imaginative stories, and writing passages that infer events not shown in pictures. Examples of Editing are correcting unclear pronouns, correcting sentences for the appropriate tense and correcting run-on sentences and sentence fragments.

** (Expressive Writing Teacher Presentation Book) **