

Level 1

Student Text

by
Matthew Stephens



Essentials in Writing
Where Students Learn to Write

417-256-4191

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Essentials in Writing

Where Students Learn to Write

Dear Parents/Teachers,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to partner with you in your child's education. I look forward to our journey together.

Up front, I want you to know that your feedback is valuable to me. Development of Essentials in Writing is ongoing and I encourage you to share positive comments and suggestions.

On the next few pages, you will find the suggested approach, curriculum format, and a syllabus for planning.

For those of you who have opted to print worksheets and/or assignment sheets, I recommend printing them at the beginning of the year rather than waiting to print them each day.

As always, I want to keep the lines of communication open and prayerfully ask that you contact me with any questions or concerns. I like to hear your compliments as well.

You may reach me via email at info@essentialsinwriting.com or by phone at **417-256-4191**.

Sincerely,

Matthew Stephens
Founder, Essentials in Writing

SUGGESTED APPROACH

1. Look at the worksheet/assignment sheet for today's lesson.
2. Watch the video lesson.
3. Complete the assignment.
4. Look at the next lesson.

1. Look at the worksheet/assignment sheet for the day's lesson.

Looking at the assignment will help students be prepared for the content of the lesson. As they watch the video portion of the lesson, they will be listening in terms of what the assignment sheet will require.

2. Watch the video lesson.

Present the new concept to the student. Depending on the student, you may want to watch the lesson with the student, or you may allow the student to watch the lesson alone.

3. Complete the assignment.

Students will complete the worksheet or assignment sheet. During this time, it's very important for students to "think out loud" as they complete the assignment. If this isn't possible due to disturbance of other students, they may wait until they are finished and then explain the new concept to a third party.

Worksheets/assignment sheets are not considered optional.

4. Look at the next lesson.

Again, it's important for students to be aware of what they will be learning.

How long should I spend on one lesson? – This depends on the topic and the student. There are many different variables to consider in such a question. Typically, a good rule to follow is: Don't complete the worksheets/assignment sheets unless the student understands the concepts presented in the video lesson. You may need to watch the video more than once. Then, students will complete the worksheet/assignment sheets after and understanding of the new concept is evident.

CURRICULUM FORMAT

Video lessons and worksheets/assignment sheets are titled to correspond with each other by number. Additionally, written work titled “A” will be completed the first day (after watching the video), “B” the second day, “C” the third day, and so on. If a lesson only has “A” written work, move to the next video lesson the following day. Look at the example below for more details.

Day One

1. Look at Lesson 1A worksheet(s).
2. Watch Video Lesson 1.
3. Complete Lesson 1A written work. (Only if concept taught in video is understood.)
4. Student explains what he/she has learned.

Day Two

1. Look at Lesson 2A worksheet(s).
2. Watch Video Lesson 2.
3. Complete Lesson 2A written work. (Only if concept taught in video is understood.)
4. Student explains what he/she has learned.

Day Three

1. Complete Lesson 2B written work.

Day Four

1. Complete Lesson 2C written work.

Day Five

1. Look at Lesson 3A worksheet(s).
2. Watch Video Lesson 3.
3. Complete Lesson 3A written work. (Only if concept taught in video is understood.)
4. Student explains what he/she has learned.

Day Six

1. Complete Lesson 3B written work

Day Seven

1. Look at Lesson 4A worksheet(s).
2. Watch Video Lesson 4.
3. Complete Lesson 4A written work. (Only if concept taught in video is understood.)
4. Student explains what he/she has learned.

...AND SO ON

LEVEL 1 SYLLABUS

This course averages 60-70 class periods.
VIDEO – 37 LESSONS
WORKBOOK – 76 PAGES

NOTE: Video lessons are indicated by ALL CAPS bold. Worksheets/assignment sheets are listed below each video lesson.

LESSON 1 – WHAT IS WRITING?
NO WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT

LESSON 2 – LETTER FORMATION A-M
Lesson 2A – Letter Formation A-M
Lesson 2B - Letter Formation A-M

LESSON 3 - LETTER FORMATION N-Z
Lesson 3A - Letter Formation N-Z
Lesson 3B - Letter Formation N-Z

LESSON 4 - LETTER SOUNDS
Lesson 4A - Letter Sounds

LESSON 5 – SPACING WORDS IN SENTENCES
Lesson 5A – Spacing Words in Sentences

LESSON 6 – CAPITALIZE THE BEGINNING OF A SENTENCE
Lesson 6A – Capitalize the Beginning of a Sentence
Lesson 6B – Capitalize the Beginning of a Sentence

LESSON 7 – END MARK: PERIOD
Lesson 7A – End Mark: Period
Lesson 7B – Capitalize and Punctuate a Telling Sentence

LESSON 8 – END MARK: QUESTION MARK
Lesson 8A – End Mark: Question Mark
Lesson 8B – Capitalize and Punctuate a Question
Lesson 8C – Capitalizing and Punctuating Sentences

LESSON 9 – END MARK: EXCLAMATION POINT (EXCITED MARK)
Lesson 9A – End Mark: Exclamation Point (Excited Mark)
Lesson 9B – Capitalizing and Punctuating Sentences

LESSON 10 – SENTENCE SUBJECTS
Lesson 10A – Sentence Subjects
Lesson 10B – Sentence Subjects

LESSON 11 – SENTENCE PREDICATES
Lesson 11A – Sentence Predicates
Lesson 11B – Sentence Predicates

LESSON 12 - IDENTIFYING SENTENCE FRAGMENTS
Lesson 12A - Identifying Sentence Fragments
Lesson 12B - Sentence Fragments

LESSON 13 - CAPITALIZING NAMES OF PEOPLE
Lesson 13A - Capitalizing Names of People
Lesson 13B - Capitalizing Names of People
Lesson 13B - Capitalizing Names of People (Continued)
Lesson 13C – Capitalization in Sentences and Names of People

LESSON 14 –INTRODUCING A PERSONAL LETTER (FRIENDLY LETTER)
Lesson 14A –Introducing a Personal Letter (Friendly Letter)

LESSON 15 – PARTS OF A PERSONAL LETTER (FRIENDLY LETTER)
Lesson 15A – Parts of a Personal Letter (Friendly Letter)
Lesson 15B – Parts of a Personal Letter (Friendly Letter)

LESSON 16 - PARTS OF A PERSONAL (FRIENDLY) LETTER: DATE

Lesson 16A - Parts of a Personal (Friendly) Letter: DATE
Lesson 16A - Parts of a Personal (Friendly) Letter: DATE

LESSON 17 - PARTS OF A PERSONAL (FRIENDLY) LETTER: GREETING

Lesson 17A - Parts of a Personal (Friendly) Letter: Greeting
Lesson 17B - Parts of a Personal (Friendly) Letter

LESSON 18 - PARTS OF A PERSONAL (FRIENDLY) LETTER: BODY

Lesson 18A - Parts of a Personal (Friendly) Letter: BODY
Lesson 18A - Parts of a Personal (Friendly) Letter: BODY

LESSON 19 - PARTS OF A FRIENDLY LETTER: CLOSING
Lesson 19A - Parts of a Friendly Letter: CLOSING

LESSON 20 - PARTS OF A FRIENDLY LETTER: SIGNATURE

Lesson 20A - Parts of a Friendly Letter: SIGNATURE
Lesson 20B – Reviewing ALL Parts of a Personal Letter (Friendly Letter)

LESSON 21 – WRITING A PERSONAL (FRIENDLY) LETTER

Lesson 21A – Writing a Personal (Friendly) Letter
Lesson 21B – Writing a Personal (Friendly) Letter

LESSON 22 – IDENTIFYING COMMON NOUNS IN SENTENCES

Lesson 22A – Identifying Common Nouns in Sentences
Lesson 22B – Identifying Common Nouns in Sentences

LESSON 23 – CATEGORIZING COMMON NOUNS
Lesson 23A – Categorizing Common Nouns

LESSON 24 – INTRODUCING PROPER NOUNS
Lesson 24A – Introducing Proper Nouns
Lesson 24B – Introducing Proper Nouns

LESSON 25 – IDENTIFYING ACTION VERBS IN SENTENCES

Lesson 25A – Identifying Action Verbs in Sentences
Lesson 25B – Using Action Verbs

LESSON 26 –INTRODUCING THE PARAGRAPH
Lesson 26A –Introducing the Paragraph

LESSON 27 –PARTS OF A PARAGRAPH

Lesson 27A –Parts of a Paragraph
Lesson 27A – Parts of a Paragraph

LESSON 28 - PARTS OF A PARAGRAPH: INDENT AND OPENING SENTENCE

Lesson 28A - Parts of a Paragraph: Indent and Opening Sentence

LESSON 29 - PARTS OF A PARAGRAPH: BODY SENTENCES

Lesson 29A - Parts of a Paragraph: Body Sentences

LESSON 30 – BODY OF A PARAGRAPH – STAYING ON TOPIC

Lesson 30A – Body of a Paragraph – Staying on Topic

LESSON 31 - PARTS OF A PARAGRAPH: CLOSING SENTENCES

Lesson 31A - Parts of a Paragraph: Closing Sentences

LESSON 32 – PARAGRAPH PRACTICE – STAYING ON TOPIC PART 2

Lesson 32A – Paragraph Practice – Staying on Topic Part 2

Lesson 32A – Paragraph Checklist

LESSON 33 – DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPH

Lesson 33A – Descriptive Paragraph

Lesson 33B – Descriptive Paragraph

Lesson 33C – Descriptive Paragraph

Lesson 33D – Descriptive Paragraph

Lesson 33D – Descriptive Paragraph Checklist

LESSON 34 - NARRATIVE

Lesson 34A - Narrative

Lesson 34B –Narrative Writing CHECKLIST

Lesson 34C – Descriptive Paragraphs and Narratives

LESSON 35 – LIST OF ITEMS

Lesson 35A – List of Items

Lesson 35A – List of Items

LESSON 36 – LIST OF THINGS TO DO

Lesson 36A – List of Things to Do

Lesson 36A – List of Things to Do

LESSON 37 – TEXT FEATURES OF POETRY

Lesson 37A – Text Features of Poetry

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NOTE: Feel free to skip to Lesson 5 if your child already knows how to form letters and is familiar with letter sounds.

Lesson 1A – NO WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT

Lesson 2A – Letter Formation A-M

Name: _____

Practice writing the letters on the lines provided.

Aa Aa Aa Aa Aa Aa

Bb Bb Bb Bb Bb Bb

Cc Cc Cc Cc Cc Cc

Dd Dd Dd Dd Dd Dd

Ee Ee Ee Ee Ee Ee

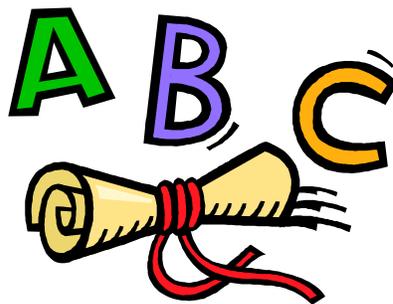
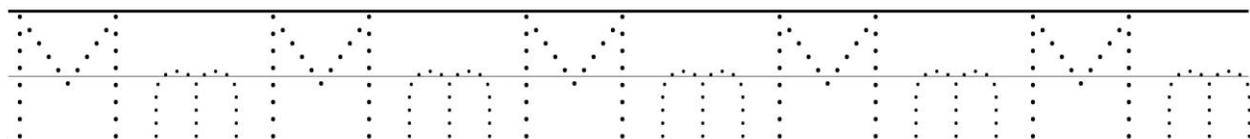
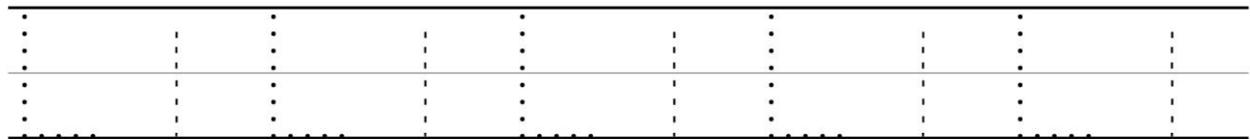
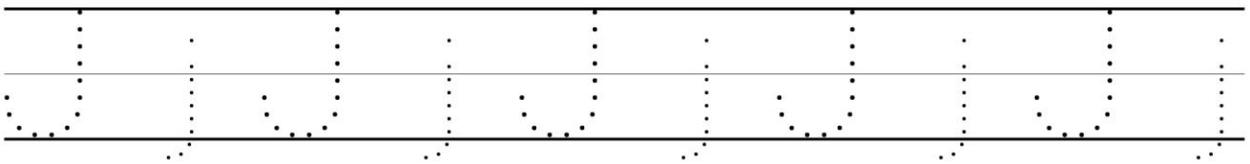
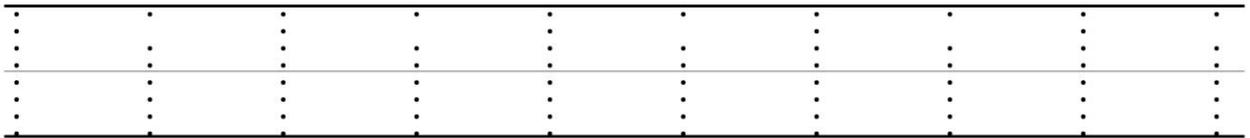
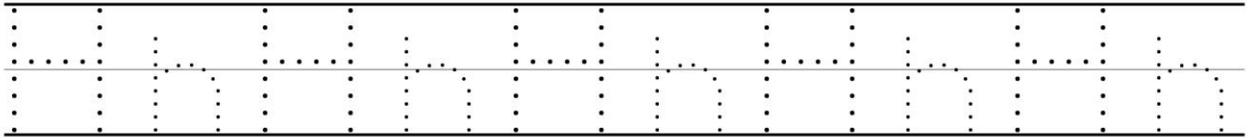
Ff Ff Ff Ff Ff Ff

Gg Gg Gg Gg Gg Gg

Lesson 2B - Letter Formation A-M

Name: _____

Practice writing the letters on the lines provided.



Lesson 11A – Sentence Predicates

Name: _____

A sentence is not complete without a predicate. The predicate of the sentence tells the reader what the subject “is” or “does”.

Example: The bird flew away. “Flew away” is the predicate.

Underline the predicates in the sentences below.

1. *The dog barked at John.*
2. *The boy ran fast.*
3. *Ben is my best friend.*
4. *Dan ate his cake.*
5. *The green car is slow.*
6. *The cat sat on the car.*
7. *My van is red.*
8. *John rode with Matt.*
9. *The pig is in the mud.*
10. *Jed took his mom to the lake.*



Lesson 11B – Sentence Predicates

Name: _____

A sentence is not complete without a predicate. The predicate of the sentence tells the reader what the subject “is” or “does”.

Add a predicate to each sentence below. The subject is already there. Have your teacher or parent check your work.

1. *The big black dog* _____.
2. *Each night, I* _____.
3. *My room* _____.
4. *Bud* _____.
5. *Mom’s flowers* _____.
6. *The barn* _____.
7. *The toys* _____.
8. *Tim* _____.
9. *The red go-kart* _____.
10. *Bess* _____.



Lesson 33A – Descriptive Paragraph

Name: _____

Descriptive paragraphs are paragraphs that describe something.

Use the form below to write a paragraph that describes your house.

Opening Sentence: (Introduce your topic.) _____

Body: (Give details about your house.)

First detail: (*How big is your house?*) _____

Second detail: (*How many bedrooms does your house have?*) _____

Third detail: (*How does your house “feel”?*) _____

Closing Sentence: (Close the paragraph with your final statement.)



Lesson 33C – Descriptive Paragraph

Name: _____

Descriptive paragraphs are paragraphs that describe something.

Now you're ready to write your first descriptive paragraph by yourself! Choose a topic below to describe. Then, write a paragraph on the lines provided.

Describe: **your pet** **your father** **your friend**
 your bedroom **a car** **a truck**

My Topic: _____

Opening Sentence (Introduce your topic.)

Body Detail #1 (*Write one thing that describes your topic.*)

Body Detail #2 (*Write one thing that describes your topic.*)

Body Detail #3 (*Write one thing that describes your topic.*)

Closing Sentence (Close your paragraph.)

Lesson 33D – Descriptive Paragraph Checklist

Name: _____

Check off each item that is completed.



My paragraph has an opening sentence.			
Yes. I can do it.		I'm getting better, but I need some help.	No, I can't do this. Please show me again.

My paragraph contains THREE details that help describe my topic.			
Yes. I can do it.		I'm getting better, but I need some help.	No, I can't do this. Please show me again.

My paragraph has a closing sentence.			
Yes. I can do it.		I'm getting better, but I need some help.	No, I can't do this. Please show me again.

My paragraph is about ONE topic.			
Yes. I can do it.		I'm getting better, but I need some help.	No, I can't do this. Please show me again.

I spell words correctly, capitalize the beginning of sentences and names of people and places, and punctuate my sentences correctly.			
Yes. I can do it.		I'm getting better, but I need some help.	No, I can't do this. Please show me again.

ANSWER KEY

Lesson 5A – Spacing Words in Sentences

1. I like my dog.
2. He is nice and furry.
3. He likes to play with me.

ANSWERS MAY VARY – EXAMPLE BELOW

- B. nice, kind, pretty, loving, sharing
C. dog, cat, bird, snake, raccoon

Lesson 6A – Capitalize the Beginning of a Sentence

1. The cat drank the milk.
2. Hal's books are on the bed.
3. My feet hurt.
4. Take the food to the table.
5. Turn the lamp on.
6. Will you take me to the park?

Lesson 6B – Capitalize the Beginning of a Sentence

John has a dog named Bart. Bart is a big, black dog with curly hair. He likes to run and play in the yard. Sometimes, Bart will do tricks for John's friends. John thinks Bart is the best dog in the world.

ANSWERS MAY VARY – EXAMPLES BELOW

My dog is big. My cat is small. My pig is fat.

Lesson 7A – End Mark: Period

1. The cup is yellow.
2. Jeff's hair is brown.
3. The tree has grown very tall.

ANSWERS MAY VARY – EXAMPLES BELOW

1. The dog is doing tricks.
2. My mom is a good cook.

Lesson 7B – Capitalize and Punctuate a Telling Sentence

1. The vase is clear.
2. The food is yummy.
3. My nose is running.

ANSWERS MAY VARY – EXAMPLES BELOW

1. I like pizza.
2. My father tickles me.

Lesson 8A – End Mark: Question Mark

1. Are you feeling sick?
2. Did Jay go with you?
3. Is this your money?

ANSWERS MAY VARY – EXAMPLES BELOW

1. Did my dog die?
2. May I get another cat?

Lesson 8B – Capitalize and Punctuate a Question

1. Will Rachel help fold the laundry?
2. Is this my candy?
3. Are the boys playing ball today?

ANSWERS MAY VARY – EXAMPLES BELOW

1. Are you feeling sick?
2. Would you like me to walk you home?

Lesson 8C – Capitalizing and Punctuating Sentences

1. The dress is green. (TELLING QUESTION)
2. Rachel sits on the porch. (TELLING QUESTION)
3. Will you get me a drink? (TELLING QUESTION)
4. The fish is on the hook. (TELLING QUESTION)
5. Is it cold outside? (TELLING QUESTION)
6. My dog is running. (TELLING QUESTION)
7. Who is at the door? (TELLING QUESTION)

Lesson 9A – End Mark: Exclamation Point (Excited Mark)

1. We played fun games!
2. I hit a home run!
3. The party was awesome!

ANSWERS MAY VARY – EXAMPLES BELOW

1. We rode a motorcycle!
2. Bret got fifty dollars!

Lesson 9B – Capitalizing and Punctuating Sentences

1. Did you buy a book? QUESTION
2. The movie was so exciting! EXCITED
3. Is this your popsicle? QUESTION
4. The flowers are pretty. TELLING
5. I caught a huge fish! EXCITED
6. Will you help wash the dishes? QUESTION
7. I like to sing and play piano. TELLING

Lesson 10A - Sentence Subjects

1. The clown did a trick.
2. The toy is blue.
3. Gus kicked the ball.
4. The man stands on the table.
5. Martin's dog ran up the hill.

Michael is my best friend. He has a pet bird named Molly. Molly wakes Michael up every morning. The sound of Molly chirping annoys Michael. My friend wants to sell Molly!

Lesson 10B - Sentence Subjects

ANSWERS MAY VARY – EXAMPLES BELOW

1. Joseph ran a mile.
2. Susan got on the train.
3. The farmer fed the animals on the farm.
4. My dog bit me on the leg.
5. My father tried to call my brother.
6. Hazel cut the cake.
7. Ryan picked a flower for his mother.
8. The student sang a song.
9. The bird flew away.
10. David's dog barked at me.

1. The big, brown cat drank the warm milk.
2. My mother reads my Bible to me.
3. My friend, Kate is the best friend ever!

Lesson 11A - Sentence Predicates

1. The dog barked at John.
2. The boy ran fast.
3. Ben is my best friend.
4. Dan ate his cake.
5. The green car is slow.
6. The cat sat on the car.
7. My van is red.
8. John rode with Matt.
9. The pig is in the mud.
10. Jed took his mom to the lake.

Lesson 11B - Sentence Predicates

ANSWERS MAY VARY – EXAMPLES BELOW

1. The big black dog barked at me.
2. Each night, I lay on my bed and read.
3. My room is nice and clean.
4. Bud takes me fishing.
5. Mom's flowers are blooming.
6. The barn is red.
7. The toys are on the floor.
8. Tim baked me a cake.
9. The red go-kart rolled down the hill.
10. Bess is very nice and pretty.