



Introduction to Composition

Program Overview



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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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Table of Contents for Instructional Units

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To the Teacher

Overview

Power Basics® is a complete textbook program designed to meet the needs of students who are daunted by the length and complexity of traditional textbooks. The goal of all textbook programs is to provide students with important new information. However, in traditional textbook programs, this goal is often overshadowed by other considerations. Many textbooks are written for the above-average reader and cover a wide range of content. They are filled with photographs, illustrations, and other visual elements. For some students, the amount of material is overpowering, the visual elements are distracting, and the rapid pace is unnerving. In Power Basics®, we revisited the basic goal, developing a streamlined textbook program that presents the essential content students need to succeed.

Program Components

As with traditional textbook programs, Power Basics® includes a core textbook and ancillary products designed to round out the program. The student text provides coverage of the essential content in each subject area. A consumable workbook provides a variety of activities for each lesson, including practice activities, extension activities, and activities designed for different learning styles.

Teacher support materials include a teacher's guide and test pack for each student text. The teacher's guide includes the following: an overview of each unit in the student text; suggestions for extension activities; the student text glossary and appendixes; a complete answer key to all practice activities and unit reviews in the student text; classroom record-keeping forms, and graphic organizers for student use.

For more detailed assessments, the test pack offers a pretest, unit tests for each unit in the student text, a posttest, scoring keys, and test-taking strategies for students.

Student Book Organization

The student text is divided into units. Each unit contains a series of lessons on related topics, with one lesson for each topic. Each lesson begins with a clear,

student-centered goal and a list of key words that are introduced in the lesson. The definitions for these words are included in the teacher material for each lesson.

Next comes a brief introduction to the topic of the lesson, followed by instructional text that presents essential information in short, easy-to-understand sections. Each section of instructional text is followed by a practice activity that lets students apply what they have just learned. A Unit Review is provided at the end of each unit to assess students' progress. The review is followed by an Application Activity that encourages students to extend and apply what they have learned.

The student text also includes several special features. “**Think About It**” sections ask students to use critical-thinking skills. “Tip” sections give students useful hints to help them remember specific pieces of information in the student text. “**In Real Life**” sections show students how the material they are learning connects to their own lives, answering the perennial question, “When am I ever going to use this?”

The reference section at the back of the student text includes a summary of rules and other important information presented in the text, a glossary (with pronunciation guide) that includes all vocabulary in the Words to Know sections, and an index to help students locate information in the text.

Record-Keeping Forms

To make record-keeping easier, we have provided reproducible class charts that you can use to track students' progress. Fill in your students' names, and make copies of the chart for each unit in the student text. Add lesson numbers, lesson titles, and practice numbers as needed. We have also provided a generic grading rubric for the Application Activities in the student text so that these activities may be assigned for credit, if you wish. You may customize the rubric by adding more grading criteria or adapting the criteria on the sheet to fit your needs.

We're pleased that you have chosen to Power Up your Basic Skills Curriculum with Power Basics®!

To the Teacher, *continued*

Guide to Icons

Teacher's Guide



Teaching Tips

Practical suggestions help you to engage students in the learning process.



Differentiation

Different approaches to the content gives all learners the opportunity to connect to the material.

Student Text



Tip

Tips give helpful hints to boost understanding and retention.



Think About It

These sections develop critical-thinking.



In Real Life

These features connect learning concepts to students' lives, answering the perennial question, "When am I ever going to use this?"

Workbook



Reinforcement

Reinforcement activities give students additional opportunities to practice what they have learned.



Multiple Intelligences

Different approaches capitalize on different learning styles and interests to help all students connect to the material.



Extension

Deepen and broaden learning with critical-thinking activities, real-life applications, and more.

Introduction to Composition

Writing is an important skill in all areas of life, from social situations to academic tests to work-related applications or reports. Students often seem to think that writing is a talent—something someone is born able to do well or not—rather than a skill to be developed using a step-by-step process and concrete strategies. This book helps students see writing as a manageable activity that can be done successfully with the correct tools.

Reading and writing are closely related. The two skills share a synergy: When a student reads well and with confidence, he or she has a model for writing. Similarly, when a student writes easily, he or she notices and appreciates good writing when reading. On the other hand, students who have difficulty in either area often have difficulty in the other. Since much of a student's education is based on reading, learning to write can help fuel success in all content areas. Writing is also a vehicle for assessment, from classroom assignments to high-stakes tests.

Introduction to Composition follows a clear and logical progression. Students master one skill or concept before tackling the next. This volume begins with sentences, explaining and modeling complete sentences. Students learn the vocabulary of language arts and see how sentence parts work together to convey an idea. The next unit builds on the first, showing how sentences work and flow together to make a paragraph. Students learn the importance of each sentence and how to join sentences into a coherent paragraph that meets a specific purpose. Students then move from paragraphs to essays, analyzing essays to understand how the paragraphs work together to express a complex idea. The next unit moves from analyzing essays to writing essays following the writing process, from generating ideas to drafting an original essay. The last unit focuses on editing to polish an essay for publication.

Writing is an important skill for self-expression. It is also used in evaluating everything from academic knowledge to fitness for a particular job. Unlike speaking and, sometimes, reading, writing is usually not a skill that someone just “picks up”; it needs to be learned. Power Basics gives students the strategies and tools they need to develop their writing. With practice, the strategies in Introduction to Composition will become second nature. Power Basics teaches students to write clearly and effectively, a vital skill and a clear advantage in every area.