

# Writing Strands

The Perfect Tool to Develop Successful Writing Skills

A unique homeschool curriculum designed to teach students the four primary modes of writing.



*Creative*



*Research and  
Report*



*Argumentative*



*Explanatory*



# Curriculum



riting Strands is dedicated to

providing high quality reading, writing and speech materials for homeschoolers with children ages 3 through 18.

Homeschool families love this unique language arts program because it's fun and engaging. The guided exercises in Writing Strands progress incrementally and allow students to work independently, yet provide the guidance students need to sharpen their ability to inform, persuade and entertain in writing. It's the perfect tool to develop successful writing skills for your child's lifetime.

## CHILD'S AGE

## RECOMMENDED BOOKS\*

Age: 3-8

**Writing Strands 1**  
Reading Strands

Age: About 7

**Writing Strands 2**  
Evaluating Writing  
Reading Strands

Age: 8-12

**Writing Strands 3**  
Evaluating Writing  
Reading Strands

Age: 13-14  
or any age after  
completing

Writing Strands 3

**Writing Strands 4**  
Evaluating Writing  
Reading Strands  
Communication and Interpersonal Relationships

Age: 15-16  
or any age after  
completing

Writing Strands 4

**Writing Strands 5**  
Evaluating Writing  
Reading Strands  
Communication and Interpersonal Relationships

Age: 17  
or any age after  
completing

Writing Strands 5

**Writing Strands 6**  
Evaluating Writing  
Reading Strands  
Communication and Interpersonal Relationships

Age: 18  
or any age after  
completing

Writing Strands 6

**Writing Strands 7**  
Evaluating Writing  
Reading Strands  
Communication and Interpersonal Relationships

After completing  
Writing Strands 7

**Writing Exposition**  
Evaluating Writing  
Reading Strands  
Communication and Interpersonal Relationships

After completing  
Writing Strands 7

**Creating Fiction**  
Evaluating Writing  
Reading Strands  
Communication and Interpersonal Relationships

\* Each family only needs one *Evaluating Writing* and *Reading Strands* as these books are parents' manuals for all levels.

Download free samples of Writing Strands books at:  
[www.writingstrands.com](http://www.writingstrands.com)

## Special Savings for New Users

Families beginning in *Writing Strands* should consider purchasing one of the following sets which offer terrific savings on our most popular book combinations.

### **BASIC STARTER SET Save \$5.00, set is \$75.00**

(for families with children aged 7-12 beginning with *Writing Strands*)  
*Writing Strands 2*, *Writing Strands 3*, *Reading Strands*  
and *Evaluating Writing*

### **INTERMEDIATE STARTER SET Save \$10.00, set is \$90.00**

(for families with children aged 8-14 beginning with *Writing Strands*)  
*Writing Strands 3*, *Writing Strands 4*, *Evaluating Writing*,  
*Communication and Interpersonal Relationships* and *Reading Strands*

### **ADVANCED STARTER SET Save \$30.00, set is \$130.00**

(for families with children aged 15 & up beginning with *Writing Strands*)  
*Writing Strands 5*, *Writing Strands 6*, *Writing Strands 7*,  
*Writing Exposition*, *Creating Fiction*, *Evaluating Writing*,  
*Communication and Interpersonal Relationships* and *Reading Strands*

### **FULL CATALOG STARTER SET Save \$40.00, set is \$195.00**

(our best value)

*Writing Strands 1*, *Writing Strands 2*, *Writing Strands 3*,  
*Writing Strands 4*, *Writing Strands 5*, *Writing Strands 6*,  
*Writing Strands 7*, *Writing Exposition*, *Creating Fiction*,  
*Evaluating Writing*, *Communication and Interpersonal Relationships*  
and *Reading Strands*

# Sample Assignment

This sample assignment is from *Writing Strands 3* and is an appropriate level for 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12 year olds who are working with *Writing Strands* for the first time. The format of this assignment has been altered from the *Writing Strands* workbook to fit on one page.

## #4 DESCRIPTION OF MY FRIEND LEVEL THREE SKILL: DESCRIPTION

It will take you four days to learn to:

1. Organize what you will describe
2. Describe in sentences what your friend looks like
3. Have your parents read your paper with you
4. Rewrite the parts you and your parents feel can be improved

### **PREWRITING**

#### DAY ONE:

This assignment will give you a chance to write about one of your friends.

The first thing you'll have to do is make a list of the characteristics your friend has (what he/she looks and acts like). This should include things like

1. Height
2. Weight
3. Color
  - A. Skin
  - B. Hair
  - C. Eyes
4. Speech
  - A. Pitch of Voice
  - B. Favorite Expressions
  - C. Loudness
5. Activities
  - A. Hobbies
  - B. School Work
  - C. Sports
  - D. TV Programs
6. The things you like best about this person

### **WRITING**

#### DAYS TWO AND THREE:

Once you have a list of characteristics you can write about, you'll have to introduce your friend to your reader.

This should include:

1. Name
2. Grade
3. Address - this should include town and state

This introduction might read like this:

Janet Brown is one of my best friends. She's a homeschooler in about the sixth grade. Janet lives on Elm Street near my house in St. Louis.

Now you can begin to tell about your friend. There should be at least one sentence for each of the items on your list.

If your list is like my suggested list, you should have at least one sentence about your friend's height. Then there should be at least one sentence about your friend's weight, then one more about color.

You should try and use as much detail in your description as you can. It would be good if you were to use examples. When you tell about your friend's eyes, you should do more than just say they're blue or brown. Tell how your friend uses her eyes. This can read like this:

When Janet's thinking, her brown eyes get big and round, and then she half closes them. When this happens, I know she's thinking of something she likes very much.

When you tell about your friend's hair, you should say more than that it's brown. You should give details about how it's cut and what your friend does with it. This can read like this:

John's hair is longer than his mother would like it to be, but John likes it long. He's always pushing it out of his face with his fingers. He has a lot of trouble with it when we play ball.

When you write about what your friend's speech is like, it would be good to use examples to show your reader how your friend talks. This can read like this:

Bill's a little shy. When someone asks him a question, he answers in a very low voice. Even when he knows the answer, sometimes he doesn't say it. But when we're playing, Bill's voice changes. Then it's as loud as mine.

#### DAY FOUR:

By now your paper has been proofread many times. It's time to have your parents read all of it at the same time. They'll make suggestions about how you can improve your work. When you write the final draft, you'll have a chance to make the improvements.

A final draft is the copy of the exercise that your parents will put on the refrigerator, send to your grandparents, show their friends and keep in their scrapbook; the one that has all of the wonderful things you've done. This is the copy that is neat, has no cross outs, is in ink if you're in the fourth grade or older, and is the one you have tried to make perfect.



Writing Strands

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PLACE AN ORDER:

[www.writingstrands.com](http://www.writingstrands.com)

# Order Form

To place your Writing Strands order, simply fill out this form and send it to us by mail or by fax. If you would like to get your order started even faster, go to the Writing Strands website and place your order online at: [www.writingstrands.com](http://www.writingstrands.com).

	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Writing Strands 1</b> (Book with CD) Oral activities for pre-writers ages 3-8	\$15 ea.	_____
<b>Writing Strands 2</b> For students who can write simple sentences, about age 7	\$20 ea.	_____
<b>Writing Strands 3</b> Starting programs at ages 8-12	\$20 ea.	_____
<b>Writing Strands 4</b> Any age after <i>Writing Strands 3</i> or starting program at age 13 or 14	\$20 ea.	_____
<b>Writing Strands 5</b> Any age after <i>Writing Strands 4</i> or starting program at age 15 or 16	\$20 ea.	_____
<b>Writing Strands 6</b> 17 or any age after <i>Writing Strands 5</i>	\$20 ea.	_____
<b>Writing Strands 7</b> 18 or any age after <i>Writing Strands 6</i>	\$20 ea.	_____
<b>Writing Exposition</b> Any age after <i>Writing Strands 7</i>	\$20 ea.	_____
<b>Creating Fiction</b> Any age after <i>Writing Strands 7</i>	\$20 ea.	_____
<b>Evaluating Writing</b> Parents' manual for all levels of <i>Writing Strands</i>	\$20 ea.	_____
<b>Reading Strands</b> Parents' manual for teaching literary analysis to all ages	\$20 ea.	_____
<b>Communication and Interpersonal Relationships</b> Communication skills for students ages 11-18	\$20 ea.	_____
<b>Full Catalog Starter Set</b> (Save \$40) 1 copy of each item above	\$195 set	_____
<b>Basic Starter Set</b> (Save \$55) <i>Writing Strands 2, Writing Strands 3, Reading Strands, and Evaluating Writing</i>	\$75 set	_____
<b>Intermediate Starter Set</b> (Save \$10) <i>Writing Strands 3, Writing Strands 4, Evaluating Writing, Communication and Interpersonal Relationships, and Reading Strands</i>	\$90 set	_____
<b>Advanced Starter Set</b> (Save \$30) <i>Writing Strands 5, Writing Strands 6, Writing Strands 7, Writing Exposition, Creating Fiction, Evaluating Writing, Communication and Interpersonal Relationships, and Reading Strands</i>	\$130 set	_____

<b>Subtotal</b>	_____
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Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Shipping Information

Continental U.S. - We ship via UPS or FedEx ground. Most customers will receive their orders within 10 business days.

P.O. Boxes, Alaska, Hawaii, U.S. Military Addresses, and U.S. Territories - We ship via U.S. Priority Mail. Orders generally arrive within 2 weeks.

Outside U.S. - Please order online at [www.writingstrands.com](http://www.writingstrands.com) or over the phone.

## Returns

Our books are guaranteed to please you. If they do not, return them within 30 days, and we'll refund the full purchase price. If you decide to return your books, please pack them securely. We cannot issue refunds for books that are damaged.

## Privacy

We respect your privacy. We will not sell, rent, or trade your personal information.

## Inquiries And Orders

Phone: (800) 688-5375

Fax: (888) 663-7855 TOLL FREE

Write: Writing Strands  
624 W. University Dr., #248  
Denton, TX 76201-1889

E-mail: [info@writingstrands.com](mailto:info@writingstrands.com)

Website: [www.writingstrands.com](http://www.writingstrands.com)

To order even faster, visit  
**[www.writingstrands.com](http://www.writingstrands.com)**

Prices valid through 12/31/12

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **How do I know which books to use with my child?**

Find your child's age in the chart on the left and follow across to see which books we feel appropriate for most children that age. Adjust your selection to fit your child's strengths and weaknesses. Each family only needs one *Evaluating Writing* and *Reading Strands* as these books are for parents.
- **Is Writing Strands a full language arts curriculum?**

Yes, so long as parents use the parents' manual, *Reading Strands*, to enhance their ability to critically examine literature and teens employ *Communication* and *Interpersonal Relationships* to improve their oral communication skills.
- **What about spelling, grammar and punctuation?**

*Writing Strands* does not have drills in these areas, but we believe they can be better taught as an aspect of writing rather than as isolated lessons. For example, instead of studying the rules of comma usage, we suggest that you look at the rules when your child has a question or a problem. *Evaluating Writing* provides a short grammar reference section that will help with most problems. Your family will need a dictionary and a grammar reference book to supplement *Writing Strands*.
- **Can more than one child use one Writing Strands book?**

Yes. We designed the books to be used by more than one child. However, if you would like two children to work at the same time on an assignment, buy each a book.
- **Will my child work independently in Writing Strands?**

Yes. In *Writing Strands* 3 and higher, the assignments are written directly to the students and the books prompt the students when to show the work to their parents.
- **Where can I learn more about your books?**

Visit our web site at [www.writingstrands.com](http://www.writingstrands.com). There, you can download samples of assignments from each of our books, place an order, find articles written by *Writing Strands*' creator Dave Marks, listen to a workshop on teaching writing, and find links to useful sites.
- **How long will it take to receive my order?**

Most customers in the continental U.S. receive their orders within 10 business days via UPS or FedEx ground shipping. Add 7-10 days if you mail your order.
- **As a first time user, must I buy a starter set?**

No, though our starter sets offer the best value for your money, feel free to order books individually.

## What Parents Say About Us

"We have been using your Writing Strands materials in our home school since September of last year. My fifth and eighth graders regarded writing as a chore... I have a degree in English from UCLA, with an emphasis in literary criticism, but I was at a loss as to how to stimulate their creative juices.

We started with Level 3 and 5. The guffaws filtering out of the schoolroom were promising: Abel, the 5th grader, particularly relates to the wit of the instructions. The work they have done is a revelation of creativity and - even more exciting to me - logic and organization. Hanna, my 8th grader, relates to every exercise with a fresh insight. They seem to engage her imagination in a way that our previous program did not. Thank you for the fine materials."

KATHLEEN ZANDER

"My children love Writing Strands! So do I! Writing is no longer a chore but something we all look forward to."

TONDA ROWLEY

"We had an amazing breakthrough this year in our writing assignments thanks to Writing Strands. My boys, ages 10 and 13, hated writing and always became upset when asked to write things. 'I can't write; I don't know how to get started,' was the usual complaint. After using your material, the change in attitude was dramatic. Please accept my heartfelt thank you for helping us into the world of writing."

MRS. ALAN STOUT

## What Reviewers Say About Us

"Writing Strands is a great way to teach writing in the home school."

CATHY DUFFY - CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS' CURRICULUM MANUAL

"This is a tremendous writing program."

MICHAEL LEPPERT - THE LINK

"For many homeschoolers, writing can seem like an insurmountable chore - one they hate and avoid. Let me tell you that there is hope for children of all ages who have not learned to write. There is hope for parents who feel wholly inadequate to teach their kids how to write coherent sentences, paragraphs, essays, and creative and expository writing. The hope exists in the language arts curriculum called Writing Strands."

DIANE KEITH - HOMEFIRES - THE JOURNAL OF HOMESCHOOLING

"The best [writing program] we've found is Writing Strands."

JESSIE WISE AND SUSAN WISE BAUER - THE WELL TRAINED MIND: A GUIDE TO CLASSICAL EDUCATION AT HOME

"What John Saxon does for mathematics, Dave Marks does for creative writing. Written with gentle wit and good humor, Dave incorporates the 'incremental approach' to writing. Each level in the series is a complete program."

PRACTICAL HOMESCHOOLING MAGAZINE

# OTHER BOOKS FOR TEACHING LANGUAGE ARTS

Here are just a few other Writing Strands tools to help your family develop successful reading and writing skills for a lifetime.

## **Reading Strands**

*Reading Strands* shows parents how to talk about and analyze novels and stories with children. Through these conversations, children learn how to discover meaning for themselves. This book introduces parents to techniques of literary interpretation and offers instruction on how to use Socratic dialogue in teaching literature. Since *Reading Strands* provides parents with the basic skills they need to guide their children through any piece of fiction, parents and children also have the freedom to choose their own books. A single volume of *Reading Strands* contains the necessary instruction for teaching children of any age.



## **Communication and Interpersonal Relationships**

*Communication and Interpersonal Relationships* teaches teens the most neglected area of language arts: personal communication. Self-guided lessons include topics such as disagreeing respectfully, communicating with body language, interacting in a classroom setting, and meeting new people.

## **Evaluating Writing**

*Evaluating Writing* is the manual for parents using *Writing Strands*. It contains material on grammar, spelling, revision, reluctance to write and advice about encouraging children to practice this much-needed skill.

Named "Best Composition Program" three times by Practical Homeschooling Magazine readers.

## Simple Program, Complex Skills

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WRITING STRANDS OR TO ORDER ONLINE, VISIT  
[www.writingstrands.com](http://www.writingstrands.com)  
FIND US ON FACEBOOK! [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WRITINGSTRANDS](https://www.facebook.com/writingstrands)

Writing Strands

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