



WRITING RIGHT

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Do you like to write? Many kids have difficulty expressing themselves through writing, and thus don't like to do it. However, writing is an important part of the school day. You probably have to do some type of writing every day. Many times, the ideas may be there, but it is getting them down on paper that is challenging. Or maybe you write, but it looks so messy and hard to read. Perhaps, editing is a struggle for you. No matter what you find challenging about writing, here are five easy things you can do to help make writing easier.

1. **Think Aloud First.** Sometimes it is easier to write a piece if you talk through it first. Talk aloud, thinking about what you want to say and how you want to say it. Talking into a tape recorder might help, too. Then tell yourself that if you can say it, you can write it!

2. **Write in Stages.** Don't try to do it all at once. Break your writing into chunks. Brainstorm ideas first. Write down a list of things you want to encompass and include. Then write a draft, not focusing on spelling and mechanics. Read and re-read it, making changes where appropriate. Lastly, fix your spelling and punctuation.

3. **Use a Writing Coach.** Sometimes a friend or teacher can help you. Have a peer editor read your work. What does he or she think about your idea? What about how you said it? Is it clear for the reader? What changes would make your writing better? Have a peer or teacher help you correct challenging spelling and punctuation.

4. **Use a Computer.** If your school or home has a computer, use it! Computers are a great aid for writing. At first it might be frustrating, because it takes longer to type than write if you have never typed before. However, if you stick with it, you should find the computer to be an invaluable tool for

writing. It makes editing a breeze, saves your work for you, and always lets your work look neat!

5. **Be Prepared to Re-Write.** One thing most kids hate to do is re-write. Sometimes getting the piece written ONCE is enough, without having to write it again! However, re-writing is a very important part of the writing process. Even great authors RARELY write something once and consider it finished. With each re-write, your piece becomes more focused and refined. With each re-write, you can catch more errors and think of how your piece will sound better. (This is another time when a computer really helps make writing less frustrating, too!).

Hopefully, using some or all of these tips can make writing more enjoyable!❖

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