**The Writing Strategies**

**Teacher-Mediated Programs**

These programs are presented through live instruction by a teacher working with students in the classroom setting. The teacher provides instruction and demonstrations and guides several types of student practice while also giving feedback.

**Conventions Instruction**

**Fundamentals in the Sentence Writing Strategy**

Students learn to write complete Simple Sentences, including

subjects, verbs, infinitives, prepositions, adjectives, and adverbs. The program is best used starting at the second-grade level, but can be used remedially in any later grade.

**Proficiency in the Sentence Writing Strategy**

Students learn to write 14 different types of sentences within the categories of Simple, Compound, Complex, and Compound/Complex Sentences. The program is best used after the third-grade level, but also can be used remedially.

**The EDIT Strategy**

Students learn to edit their work. They inspect their work for a variety of errors and then correct those errors.

**Text-type Instruction**

**The Paragraph Writing Strategy**

Students learn to plan, write, and edit well-organized and flowing paragraphs, including several types of Topic, Detail, and Clincher Sentences written in the same tense and point of view. They also learn to write eight different types of paragraphs, including informative, persuasive, narrative, and descriptive paragraphs.

**The Essay Test-Taking Strategy**

Students learn to analyze essay questions on tests and write well-organized paragraphs in response to those questions.

**Fundamentals in the Theme Writing Strategy**

Students learn to plan, write, and edit well-organized basic themes, including

Introductory, Detail, and Concluding Paragraphs written in the same point of view and tense. They learn how to infuse creativity into their Introductory and Concluding Paragraphs using a variety of methods and how to vary the structure of their paragraphs.

**Proficiency in the Theme Writing Strategy: Informative Writing**

Students learn to research, plan, write, and edit several types of well-organized Informative Themes, including short research papers, Character Analyses, Definitional Essays, Compare Essays, Contrast Essays, Causes Essays, Effects Essays, and Long Research Themes (including Compare and Contrast Themes and Causes and Effects Themes).

**Proficiency in the Theme Writing Strategy: Persuasive/Argumentative Writing (coming next year)**

Students learn to research, plan, write, and edit several types of well-organized Persuasive and Argumentative Themes, including basic short and long themes, themes with counterarguments, and themes with examples.

**Proficiency in the Theme Writing Strategy: Narrative Writing (coming next year)**

Students learn to research, plan, write, and edit several types of well-organized Narrative Themes.

**Computer-mediated Instruction**

With these programs, the large majority of the instruction is provided to students by a computer program. The teacher monitors student work and provides feedback on student writing at various points in the program. Students work at their own pace.

**Conventions Instruction**

**Capitalization Strategies CD Program**

Students learn to apply the basic capitalization rules within their writing by using a variety of strategies.

**Commas Strategies CD Program**

Students learn to apply the commas rules within their writing by using a variety of strategies.

**Punctuation Strategies CD Program**

Students learn to apply the punctuation rules (other than the comma rules) within their writing by using a variety of strategies.

**Text-type Instruction**

**The Star Writer Program: The Beginning Paragraph Writing CD**

Students learn to plan, write, and edit an organized paragraph containing complete sentences and a variety of Topic, Detail, and Clincher Sentences written in the same point of view and tense.

**The Star Writer Program: The Advanced Paragraph Writing CD**

Students learn to plan, write, and edit a variety of paragraph types, including Instructive, Informative, Persuasive, Narrative, and Descriptive Paragraphs.

**The Star Writer Program: The Beginning Theme Writing CD**

Students learn to plan, write, and edit an organized theme, including an Introductory Paragraph, several Detail Paragraphs, and a Concluding Paragraph using the same tense and point of view.

**The Star Writer Program: The Advanced Theme Writing CD**

Students learn to write a variety of theme types, including Informative Themes, Persuasive/Argumentative Themes, and Narrative Themes.

**SCHOOL REFORM EFFORT IN WRITING**

**Across the grades in ELA classes:** The writing strategies are taught to all students starting in second grade. Middle-school students focus on learning paragraph writing and basic theme writing. High-school students focus on the advanced theme writing programs (Informative, Persuasive, and Narrative).

**Support Classes:** Support classes provide additional instruction and practice for those students who are not reaching mastery in ELA classes. The CD instruction is utilized where appropriate.