

Hello SMU

Skills, Will, Strategies, and Knowledge
– The Road to Competent Writing

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In Tennessee the most common place to dine is called a -- Meat & 3

Over the years, we have developed our own version of this for promoting writing development

Skills


Strategies

Knowledge


Will


- Mastering the meat (skills such as handwriting, spelling, and sentence construction) is essential to early writing development
- The 3 (strategies, knowledge, and will) are at the heart of the instructional model we developed in the 1980s – Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD)

- Karen will talk about SRSD – which is primarily a mechanism for helping developing and struggling writers' become more strategic
- I will share with you an example of our work involving skills, knowledge, and will




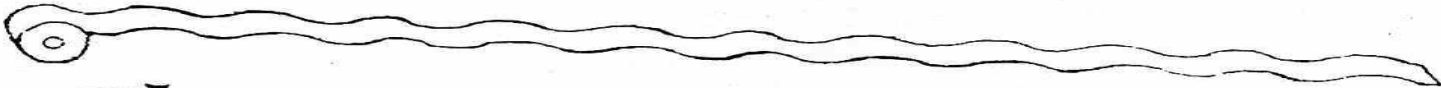
Please excuse Pedro from
being absent yesterday.
He had dyrea.






Please excuse Pedro from
being absent yesterday.
He had diarrhoe.






Please excuse Pedro from
being absent yesterday.
He had direathe.





Please excuse Pedro from
being absent yesterday.
He had the shits.



SKILLS - SPELLING

- Screened grade two students in 4 urban schools (WIAT)
- Identified 60 Weaker Spellers (25th percentile or below) – 23 students had a disability

* Graham, Harris, & Fink-Chorzempa, 2002 (Journal of Educational Psychology)

- Students randomly assigned to
 - Supplemental Spelling Instruction
 - Supplemental Math Instruction

Students worked in pairs

Each pair received 16 hours of instruction

Findings – Effect Sizes

- Unit Spelling Test = 11.81
- Delayed Maintenance = 2.86
- Spelling WIAT = 0.77
- TWS – Predictable Words = 1.05
- TWS – Unpredictable Words = 0.64

- WRMT Word Attack – .82
- WRMT Word Recognition – NS
- WIAT Writing Fluency – .78
- Story Length – NS
- Story Quality - NS

Next Study on SKILLS

How do you make your paper better?

Good Writers:

- Make the ending real exciting.**
- Put my sentences in different order.**

Struggling writers:

- Make sure I have my date and name on there.**
- Write it bigger so that it takes up more space.**

KNOWLEDGE

- 32 grade four students and 32 grade 6 students (normally distributed TOWL scores and of average intelligence)
- * Olinghouse & Graham, 2008 (Journal of Educational Psychology)

Measures

- Each student wrote a narrative story in response to a lined-drawing
- Students' knowledge of writing was obtained in an interview where we asked them 6 questions about writing (i.e., good writing, trouble writing, what good writers do, how to overcome difficulties, what they do when they write, characteristics of a story)

Knowledge Measures

- knowledge of story elements
- substantive processes
- production procedures
- role of motivation in writing
- irrelevant knowledge

Control Variables

- Planning Behavior (1 to 5)
- Handwriting Fluency (1.5 m)
- Spelling (Contextual misspellings)
- Attitude Towards Writing (12 items)
- Reading (Sight word efficiency TOWRE)
- Gender (requires no explanation -- hopefully)

Findings

Writing Quality

1. Control variables accounted for 47% of variability
2. Knowledge 14% additional variability (knowledge of story elements and production as well as HW fluency unique variance)

Length

1. Control variables accounted for 47% of variability
2. Knowledge 14% additional variability (knowledge of motivation, HW fluency, and spelling unique variance)

Next Study on KNOWLEDGE

- “Ah to have your name in print! There are certain people who commit a crime for that pleasure alone.”

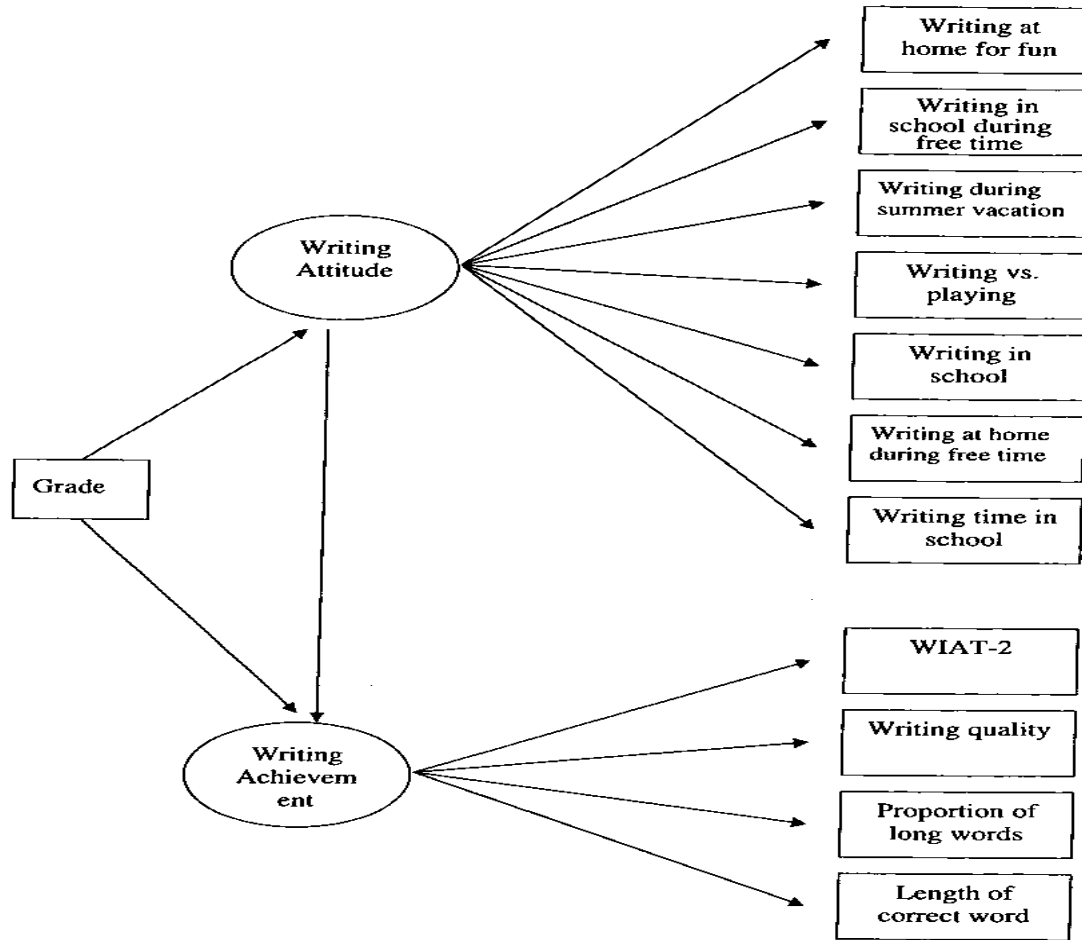
Gustave Flaubert

WILL

128 grade 1 students; 113 grade 3 students from a large urban area (average range on IQ, however students came from well educated families, with most parents attending college for some time)

- Tested 3 models of the relationship between writing and attitudes toward writing

* Graham, Berninger, & Fan, 2007 (Contemporary Educational Psychology)



Findings

- Using SEM, the model that provided the best fit to the data was the one that was consistent with the view that writing attitude influences writing performance (the direct path between attitude and writing for this model was also statistically significant) – neither of the other 2 models provided a good fit to the data

Next Study Related to WILL

QUESTIONS

- Hopefully, someone will ask about our work to make writing a player in the reform movement!