

## Power Writing

What is Power Writing?

Traditional Power Writing is based on a numerical approach to the structure of writing. It replaces the ambiguity and abstraction of writing terminology with a numbered structure that students can understand more easily. This numerical structure provides the basis for all forms of writing: expository, persuasive, narrative and descriptive. Power Writing solves the writer's frequent problem of how to say it and in what order.

Power writing is a method of writing designed to improve student's writing through a three-step process. The beginning step teaches word power, sentence power (structure) and basic paragraphs. The middle step focuses on stronger paragraphs with elaboration. The advance step combines what students have learned into a multiple paragraph essay. This method of teaching writing will apply to all forms of expository, persuasive, and personal narrative writing.

Equally important to Power Writing is the sequential teaching process that builds in steps upon the mastery of each concept. Students are taught how to organize their thoughts before their writing begins. Structured writing follows organized thinking. These concepts are taught with age-appropriate exercises to assure that students possess the skills to expand complexity in their thinking and writing.

Power Writing Plus®, as developed by Shirley Poulton, blends the other traits of effective writing into the Power Writing approach. This has created an integrated system for teaching students to write in a manner that demonstrates rich word choice, sentence fluency, ideas and content, organizational structure, voice, and conventions.

Below is an introduction to the numerical structure of Power Writing.

## Power Writing

<b>Power 1</b>	Focus, main idea, topic sentence, or thesis statement
<b>Power 2</b>	Major supporting ideas ("talk" about the Power 1)
<b>Power 3</b>	Details, elaboration, examples ("talk" about the Power 2s)
<b>Power 4</b>	Concluding or closing sentence relates to the POWER 1 sentence.
<b>Power Zeros</b>	voice or extra information

Power Writing Terms:

**Lead & Hook** – A lead or hook is the opening sentence or two in your theme in which you catch your reader's interest and introduce your topic.

Is the opening sentence or two in your theme in which you catch your reader's interest and introduce your topic?

EXAMPLES:

- \* The environment is getting so polluted that animals die everyday.
- \* Crash! That is the sound of a tree getting cut down.
- \* The clear cool air rushes past my face.
- \* Our environment is like a very delicate baby that only we can help.
- \* Trees provide oxygen so humans and animals can breathe.
- \* Protecting our environment is as important as going to school.

**Signal words** – Words that signal major supporting ideas

**Words and phrases that usually signal Power 2 ideas:**

First  
Second  
Third  
And  
More  
Even more

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Moreover  
More than that  
Equally (important,  
Necessary, etc.)  
Besides  
Furthermore  
Also  
Likewise  
Next  
Then  
To begin with  
Again  
In addition to  
Lastly  
Finally  
Some  
Others  
Still others  
Above all  
Another

### **Words and phrases that usually signal Power 3 ideas:**

Details, elaboration, examples ("talk" about the Power 2s)

That is to say  
Namely  
As  
Just as  
Specifically  
To be sure  
In such cases  
This can be made clear...  
Because of this...  
For example  
Like  
In the same manner  
To be specific  
For instance  
In other words  
This can be explained...  
This can be clarified...  
It is necessary to pause here to...

### **Conclusion signal -**

### **Phrases that might signal a Power 4 sentence:**

**In conclusion...**

**In summary...**

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