POWER

Background and Implementation

Understanding the POWER Strategy

A **mnemonic** for **breaking down the writing process into sequential, manageable steps**.

- **P**lan
- **O**rganize
- **W**rite
- **E**dit
- **R**evise

Understanding the POWER Strategy

This strategy…

Supports: Planning, Organization, Drafting, Editing, Revising

Applies To: Persuasive, Narrative, and Informational Writing

Grade Levels: Grades 6–12

Purpose and effectiveness

What it Helps Students Do:

Break down the complex writing process into manageable steps.

Utilize other learned writing strategies (e.g., OREO, COPS, ARMS) in a structured manner.

Develop independence and confidence in their writing.

Improve the organization, clarity, and coherence of their text.

Purpose and effectiveness

Why it's Effective:

Uses a memorable acronym to guide and structure student actions.

Supports executive functioning and self-regulation skills.

Aligns with research-based practices, demonstrating positive outcomes for diverse learners, including students with learning disabilities.

Provides an explicit, tactile process for developing internal **planning, editing, and revision routines**.
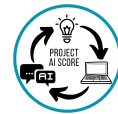
POWER

Step by Step

P- Plan

Step	Action	Guiding Question
Plan	**Determine the purpose, audience, and key ideas.**	**"What do I want to say?"**

O- Organize

Step	Action	Guiding Question
Plan	Determine the purpose, audience, and key ideas.	"What do I want to say?"
Organize	**Determine a logical structure for the ideas (e.g., using a graphic organizer)**	**"What order makes the most sense?"**

W- write

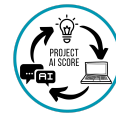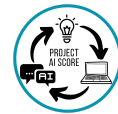| Step	Action	Guiding Question
Plan	Determine the purpose, audience, and key ideas.	"What do I want to say?"
Organize	Determine a logical structure for the ideas (e.g., using a graphic organizer)	"What order makes the most sense?"
Write	**Focus on getting ideas down clearly and completely in a draft.**	**"How can I say it clearly and completely?"**

WRITE

E- Edit

Step	Action	Guiding Question
Plan	Determine the purpose, audience, and key ideas.	"What do I want to say?"
Organize	Determine a logical structure for the ideas (e.g., using a graphic organizer)	"What order makes the most sense?"
Write	Focus on getting ideas down clearly and completely in a draft.	"How can I say it clearly and completely?"
Edit	**Check for conventions (grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization).**	**"Did I check for grammar and spelling?"**

R- Revise

Step	Action	Guiding Question
Plan	Determine the purpose, audience, and key ideas.	"What do I want to say?"
Organize	Determine a logical structure for the ideas (e.g., using a graphic organizer)	"What order makes the most sense?"
Write	Focus on getting ideas down clearly and completely in a draft.	"How can I say it clearly and completely?"
Edit	Check for conventions (grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization).	"Did I check for grammar and spelling?"
Revise	**Focus on improving the content, clarity, and effectiveness of the message.**	**"Can I make it better or clearer?"** WRITE

Implementation Tips

Anchor the strategy with a visual poster/chart.

- Display a large P.O.W.E.R. Chart with icons for each step to serve as a constant visual reference.
- Use a think-aloud to explicitly **model** each step of the strategy.
- Connect each step to **real-life tasks** (e.g., "planning a trip" is like "planning an essay").

Introduce the strategy only after teaching prerequisite skills.

- This strategy works best when students are already aware of supporting mini-strategies like **COPS/CUPS** (for editing) and **ARMS** (for revising).
- **Do not skip steps** or expect students to follow the strategy without explicit teaching and modeling of each part.

Scaffolding for Different Learners

Use sentence starters for Plan and Write.

- **Sentence starters** (e.g., "I remember a time when...", "It all started when...") reduce cognitive load and provide a starting point.
- This helps students model academic language and build confidence, reducing the fear of a blank page.

Use color-coded graphic organizers.

- **Color coding** (like green/yellow/red) helps students intuitively assess and categorize their ideas for better visual clarity.
- This promotes multi-sensory engagement and helps students self-monitor the quality and relevance of their thoughts.

Interested in learning more? Check out WritingClassroom.org