

Educator's One-Page Overview: PLANS Writing Strategy

The PLANS writing strategy is a structured, student-friendly process that supports informational and expository writing. Developed by Dr. Edwin Ellis, it works in tandem with the FRAME Routine graphic organizer to help students plan, organize, draft, and revise their writing with confidence and clarity.

PLANS Steps

P – Preview

- Activate prior knowledge by reading or watching content.
- Identify the topic, audience, and purpose for writing.

L – List

- Brainstorm main ideas and supporting details.
- Use the PLANS Frame graphic organizer to visually plan.

A – Assign

- Determine the best order for presenting information.
- Number main ideas and organize supporting details.

N – Note

- Convert ideas into full sentences and structured paragraphs.
- Use transitions and elaboration to clarify points.

S – Search

- Reread and revise the draft for clarity and correctness.
 - Use a revision checklist to check for grammar, coherence, and completeness.
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Why It Works

- Provides structure and scaffolding for all learners.
 - Promotes metacognitive thinking and writing independence.
 - Integrates visual planning through the PLANS Frame G.O.
 - Increases writing quality and student confidence.
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Tips for Implementation

- Model each step with think-alouds.
- Use sentence starters and visual cues when needed.
- Scaffold with templates, examples, and peer collaboration.
- Integrate PLANS into multiple content areas.
- Celebrate progress and emphasize a growth mindset.