



HIGH SCHOOL WRITING – THE ONLINE WRITING LAB (OWL)

Writing well is one of the most valuable skills a student can learn, but also one of the most difficult to impart. Research shows that the best way to learn to write is to write often with informed feedback. With SMARTHINKING's OWL, teachers are reinforced by live tutors who provide one-on-one support to students as they face the blank page, struggle through revisions, and put the final polish on their drafts.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- **Personal Attention.** To become better writers, students need personalized feedback in time to make revisions and edits. SMARTHINKING gives students this detailed feedback within 24 hours from real, experienced instructors. Over 90% of SMARTHINKING writing tutor holds a masters degree or higher.
- **Strengthen Fundamentals.** SMARTHINKING tutors do not simply correct essays, they teach the core skills of strong writing. Students learn how to tackle future writing assignments on their own.
- **Administration and Tracking.** At any time, administrators and teachers are a click away from individual and aggregate information on student progress, including actual student tutorial sessions, writing submissions, and tutor guidance. With this feedback, teachers can modify and enhance classroom instruction and individualize their approach to each student.
- **Increased Teacher Productivity.** With SMARTHINKING, in-class time is enhanced with specific feedback from each student's tutorial sessions.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- **Comprehensive Support.** From any Internet connection, students can receive real-time grammar and writing help from live tutors, submit questions for next day response, or submit essays for personal critique and return usually within 24 hours. Further, students can progress through a series of modules that instruct them on writing fundamentals and provide assignments for them to complete. These assignments are critiqued and returned by the SMARTHINKING tutors.
- **Trained, real tutors.** Unlike artificial intelligence software programs, SMARTHINKING's Online Writing Lab gives your teachers and students the extra support of trained, experienced writing tutors - staffed around the clock and accessible through any Internet connection.
- **Feedback.** Teachers can access each student's online tutorial sessions, and see what types of questions are being asked. Time in class can focus on the problem areas evident from tutorial sessions.

ONLINE WRITING LAB -- IN PRACTICE

Graduating students who can write clearly and effectively is a priority in Massachusetts, reflected in a long composition assignment on the MCAS, the state exit exam. Massasoit Community College runs a Summer MCAS Skill Building Program this year to help Bristol students who failed the MCAS. Palma Cortese, the program coordinator, says that her students are "very motivated by the Online Writing Lab program," which she describes as a "great way to individualize instruction and meet the needs of each student."

AT A GLANCE

What: Detailed feedback and critiques on drafted submissions, live real-time one-on-one writing help, quick answers to grammatical and style questions, and a curriculum to provide instruction on the writing fundamentals.

Why: Learning to write well requires frequent practice and constructive feedback. SMARTHINKING provides the human support necessary to give students the informed practice they need.

Customization: Schools may choose SMARTHINKING's writing curriculum, or use SMARTHINKING to support its own curriculum.

Experience: Over 90% of SMARTHINKING's writing tutors have a masters degree or higher in their discipline. Most are current or former teachers. All are screened, trained and undergo ongoing professional development.