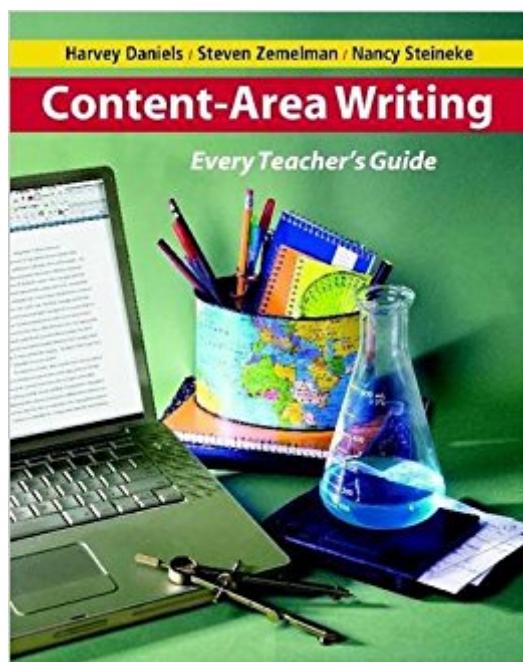


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# Content-Area Writing: Every Teacher's Guide



## Synopsis

There are three truths about teaching writing, one that's widely known, one that isn't, and one that will change your teaching forever: the ability to write is essential for students in every subject area writing is the most powerful and efficient tool that teachers have for helping students connect with content and deepen their understanding of it every teacher, including you, is ready to coach middle and secondary writers successfully right now. No matter what subject you teach, Content-Area Writing is for you, especially if you're juggling broad curriculum mandates, thick textbooks, and severe time constraints. It not only shows that incorporating carefully structured writing activities into your lessons actually increases understanding and achievement, but also proves how writing can save, not consume, valuable instructional time. *Subjects Matter* - the book that changed how tens of thousands of language arts, math, science, and social studies teachers use reading in their classrooms - Harvey Daniels, Steven Zemelman, and Nancy Steineke now present the most thorough and practical exploration available of writing in the subject areas. Content-Area Writing guides you strategically through the two major types of writing that every student must know: Writing to Learn: the quick, exploratory, and extemporaneous in-class writing that helps kids engage deeply with content, build connections, and retain what they've learned Public Writing: planned, constructed, and polished writing in which students demonstrate knowledge and reflect on what they've learned. With their contagious combination of humor, irreverence, and classroom smarts, Daniels, Zemelman, and Steineke give you dozens of valuable lessons for encouraging growth in both types of writing with subject-specific ideas for planning, organizing, and teaching, as well as samples of student work and guidelines for evaluation and assessment. They also include detailed information on how their strategies fit into the writing process, how they can be used in writing workshops across the curriculum, and how they prepare students for testing and other on-demand writing situations. With writing, you can help students learn better, retain more, meet content- and skills-based standards, and tackle any test with confidence. No matter what you teach, read Content-Area Writing and discover for yourself that classroom time spent writing is classroom time well spent.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 11 - 17 years

Grade Level: 6 - 12

## Customer Reviews

Harvey "Smokey" Daniels has been a city and suburban classroom teacher and a college professor, and now works as a national consultant and author on literacy education. In language arts, Smokey is known for his pioneering work on student book clubs, as recounted in *Literature Circles: Voice and Choice in Book Clubs and Reading Groups*, and *Minilessons for Literature Circles*. His latest bestselling books on content-area literacy are *The Curious Classroom; Comprehension & Collaboration, Second Edition*; *Upstanders; Subjects Matter, Second Edition*; the *Texts and Lessons* series; and *Content-Area Writing*. He is also coauthor of *Best Practice, Fourth Edition*, and *The Best Practice Video Companion* as well as editor of *Comprehension Going Forward*. Smokey works with elementary and secondary teachers throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe, offering demonstration lessons, workshops, and consulting, with a special focus on creating, sustaining, and renewing student-centered inquiries and discussions of all kinds. Smokey shows colleagues how to simultaneously build students' reading strategies, balance their reading diets, and strengthen the social skills they need to become genuine lifelong readers. Connect with Smokey @smokeylit. *READING Comprehension Going Forward* *Mini-lessons for Literature Circles* *Subjects Matter, Second Edition* *Texts and Lessons for Content-Area Reading* *Texts and Lessons for Teaching Literature* *WRITING Community of Writers* *Content-Area Writing* *LITERACY* *The Curious Classroom* *Comprehension & Collaboration, Second Edition* *Inquiry Circles for Elementary Classrooms* *Inquiry Circles for Secondary Classrooms* *SCHOOL CULTURE* *Best Practice, Fourth Edition* *Best Practice Video Companion* *Rethinking High School* *Rethinking High School Video* *Upstanders* Steven Zemelman's newest Heinemann title is *From Inquiry to Action*, which combines two of his education passions: Choice-based inquiry approaches and civic action. Steve has worked in many capacities

to promote the sustainability of innovative schools in Chicago. For eight years he directed the Center for City Schools at National-Louis University, and he is a founding director of the Illinois Writing Project. He has spearheaded the start of a number of innovative small high schools in the city. His experiences and research in these areas led to his Heinemann book 13 Steps to Teacher Empowerment, coauthored with Harry Ross. Steve has been a frequent collaborator with Harvey "Smokey" Daniels. They have coauthored seven books and videos with Heinemann, including Subjects Matter, Second Edition; Best Practice, Fourth Edition, and The Best Practice Video Companion; Content-Area Writing; Rethinking High School and its companion video; and A Community of Writers. These books are filled with practical strategies for making writing, reading, the content areas, and indeed the life of a school itself into a deeper and richer learning experience for kids. Zemelman and Daniels are known for immediately useful teaching strategies that range from brief, easy-to-use reflections that help students learn right in class to bigger public-writing projects that can make school truly memorable for kids and teachers alike. Steve consults with schools and districts around the country and may be contacted directly at [stv.zemelman@comcast.net](mailto:stv.zemelman@comcast.net) or @StevenZemelman. Nancy Steineke consults nationally as a keynote speaker, workshop presenter, and literacy coach for K-12 teachers. She specializes in content-area literacy, nonfiction writing, purposeful close reading, literature circles, and student engagement. Nancy keeps the focus on manageable teaching strategies that best benefit students. A published author and accomplished teacher, Nancy has been featured in classroom videos for Best Practice and Comprehension and Collaboration. Her groundbreaking work with book clubs and student led discussion groups is captured in her books Assessment Live! and Reading and Writing Together. A frequent collaborator with Harvey "Smokey" Daniels, they have co-authored Mini-Lessons for Literature Circles; Texts and Lessons for Content Area Reading; and Texts and Lessons for Literature. Nancy presents annually at the National Council of Teachers of English, International Reading Association, and various state conferences. She is also an Illinois Writing Project leader. Along with Harvey Daniels, Nancy has organized and led over 50 multi-day residential institutes for teachers in locations around the United States.

All teachers should have this book on their desks--not just English Language Arts teachers. As the authors point out, writing not only leads to better job prospects for our students and higher test scores--it can lead to a better, more fulfilling life. The authors provide strategies that are specifically meant to work across content areas and many that are useful for math, science, and social studies in specific. This book has been especially valuable to me as an ELA teacher because of the specific

strategies the authors offer. For example, the authors do more than just discuss the theory of writing-to-learn--they provide clear, easy methods to put the theory into practice. They explain the protocol for strategies that I have used many times in my classes at this point, like write-arounds, written conversations, and double-entry journals. Write-arounds (an activity in which students have a conversation in writing rather than verbally) has really helped me build a more inclusive classroom that gives a voice even to those students who may not be comfortable sharing their ideas out loud. The authors also offer useful ideas for public writing projects--writing projects that ask students to write for an actual audience rather than just the teacher. Perhaps the most useful aspect of this book is the clear instructions the authors give for supporting students in the process of writing. I was never quite sure how to help students get ideas down prior to writing, but after reading this book, I feel like I have a toolbox at hand if I draw a blank (or if they draw a blank!). In particular, I use a strategy called 4-card stud to help students generate ideas. In this strategy, students begin by writing general ideas about a topic on the first notecard, gradually expanding and going into more depth about their ideas on the rest of the cards. It is a nice hands-on activity that has helped many of my struggling writers. Overall, it's a very useful book with practical strategies that put theory into practice.

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Will be part of my library for my first couple years of teaching.

I needed this book for a class and since it was way cheaper on I bought it hear. I acutally like this book. I'm an education major I can see myself refer back to this book quite often. My teacher also played an awesome role in my like the book. She broke the material down and we practiced in class senerios where we would use these writing strategies in the classroom.

Good content. A bit long-winded and dry. Not readily easy to use as a resource. Be ready to ready the whole book cover to cover. :/

Well I bought it for a class, so it did the trick. It actually has some useful strategies and lessons that anyone, in any subject could incorporate into their classroom.

I am using this book for a class at Syracuse University. It has some valuable approaches for teaching literacy.

I had to read/use this book for a class I was taking and I found it to be quite valuable. Great ideas presented by teachers who know how to use the strategies in the classroom. I am using a few of the ideas now, including the Faktion paper and the i-Search

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