

# Preface



## Exploring Personalized Learning

*Exploring Writing* emphasizes personalized learning. Powered by *Connect Writing*, students gain access to our groundbreaking personalized learning plan, which helps students become aware of what they already know and what they need to practice. A self-study tool, its cutting-edge, continually adaptive technology and exclusive time-management features make students more productive, keep them on track, and give them the writing skills needed for all their college courses.

With a baseline adaptive diagnostic that assesses student proficiencies in five core areas of grammar and mechanics, students can generate a unique learning plan tailored to address their specific needs in the allotted time. Students receive a personalized program of writing lessons, videos, animations, and interactive exercises to improve their skills and are offered immediate feedback on their work. With an engine that incorporates metacognitive learning theory and provides ongoing diagnosis for every learning objective, the personal learning plan continually adapts with each student interaction, while built-in time management tools ensure that students achieve their course goals. This personalized, constantly assessing and adapting online environment increases student readiness, motivation, and confidence, and allows classroom instruction to focus on thoughtful and critical writing processes.

Personalized learning plan icons, like the one above, are integrated throughout the chapters. The detailed Table of Contents also contains a Connect Writing 2.0 Personalized Learning Plan Correlation Guide for Part Three. It lists related individual learning topics in the Connect personalized learning plan.

## Exploring Personal, Academic, and Workplace Writing

*Exploring Writing* is flexible. Throughout *Paragraphs and Essays*, students are exposed to examples of writing that reflect the three key realms of their lives—personal, academic, and workplace. They will find the models, activities, and examples for any writing situation. Parts Two and Three, for example, include new sample paragraphs reflecting academic and workplace writing while continuing to offer familiar as well as updated personal writing examples. This variety provides great flexibility in the kinds of assignments you prefer to give. Icons identifying personal, academic, and workplace writing are integrated throughout the chapters.



## Exploring and Mastering the Four Bases: Unity, Support, Coherence, Sentence Skills

*Exploring Writing* emphasizes writing skills and process. By referring to a set of four skills for effective writing, *Exploring Writing* encourages new writers to see writing as a skill that can be learned and a process that must be explored. The four skills, or bases, for effective writing are as follows:

- **Unity:** Discover a clearly stated point or topic sentence, and make sure that all other information in the paragraph or essay supports that point.
- **Support:** Support the points with specific evidence, and plenty of it.
- **Coherence:** Organize and connect supporting evidence so that paragraphs and essays transition smoothly from one bit of supporting information to the next.
- **Sentence skills:** Revise and edit so that sentences are error-free for clearer and more effective communication.

The four bases are essential to effective writing, whether it be a narrative paragraph, a cover letter for a job application, or an essay assignment.

### UNITY

Discover a clearly stated point, or topic sentence, and make sure all the other information in the paragraph or essay is in support of that point.

### SUPPORT

Support points with specific evidence, and plenty of it.

### COHERENCE

Organize and connect supporting evidence so that paragraphs and essays transition smoothly from one bit of supporting information to the next.

### SENTENCE SKILLS

Revise and edit so that sentences are error-free for clearer and more effective communication.

# CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER CHANGES

In addition to incorporating the personalized learning plan, maintaining the four bases framework, and continuing to build in many familiar personal writing examples, *Exploring Writing: Paragraphs and Essays 3/e* includes the following chapter-by-chapter changes:

## Part One: Writing Skills and Process

- New sample paragraphs that reflect academic and workplace writing
- Revised writing samples to eliminate use of second-person

## Part Two: Basic Principles of Effective Writing

- New sample paragraphs that reflect academic and workplace writing
- Revised writing samples to eliminate use of second-person

## Part Three: Paragraph Development

- Updated personal writing examples
- New sample paragraphs that reflect academic and workplace writing
- New Activities and Writing Assignments that reflect academic and workplace writing
- Revised writing samples to eliminate use of second-person

## Part Four: Essay Development

### Chapter 15: Introduction to Essay Development

- Revised presentation of the term “essay,” including explanation of “thesis” and coverage of essays with more than three supporting paragraphs
- New explanation of the role of mixed modes in essay writing
- New explanation about limited use of second-person in writing

### Chapter 16: Writing the Essay

- Coverage of essays with more than three supporting paragraphs
- Updated, revised full-length sample essay
- Revised writing samples to eliminate use of second-person

### Chapter 17: Introductions, Conclusions, and Titles

- Revised treatment of the use of questions in essay structuring
- New Activities and Writing Assignments that reflect academic and workplace writing
- Inclusion of multiple across-chapter cross-references to related topics

## Chapter 18: Patterns of Essay Development

- Chapter overhauled
- New introductory text for each pattern with explanation of how multiple modes function together in one essay
- All nine sample essays now emphasize one pattern or mode, but include other modes as well to better reflect real writing
- Revised essay questions, with inclusion of Main Idea, Author's Purpose, and Mixed Modes questions for each essay
- New directions for reading, analyzing, and interacting with each essay
- New sample essays and Writing Assignments that reflect academic and workplace writing
- Revised writing samples to eliminate use of second-person
- Inclusion of multiple across-chapter cross-references to related topics

## Chapter 20: Writing a Research Paper

- Updated formatting for sample student paper to better represent academic expectations

## Part Five: Handbook of Sentence Skills

- Grammar activities and exercises rewritten to incorporate academic and workplace-related themes
- Review Tests reworked to incorporate academic and workplace-related themes
- Revised material frequently focused on one issue so that it reads as a unified passage rather than a set of disconnected statements
- Improved coverage of certain key grammar topics, such as subordinating words and verb forms
- Targeted instruction on e-mail writing and etiquette
- Inclusion of multiple across-chapter cross-references to related topics

## Part Six: Readings for Writers

- Readings updated to include four new selections by diverse and well-respected authors:

“Superman and Me” by Sherman Alexie

“Straw into Gold: The Metamorphosis of the Everyday” by Sandra Cisneros

“Mother Tongue” by Amy Tan

“Advice to Youth” by Mark Twain

- Each new reading accompanied by a new full set of questions and assignments
- All assignments reflect either personal, academic, or workplace-related themes

## Appendixes

- New appendix presents formal e-mail model, along with guidelines for writing e-mails
- New appendix provides lists of most common transition words and phrases

## Book-Specific Supplements for Instructors

The Annotated Instructor's Edition (ISBN 007-741128-5) consists of the student text, complete with answers to all activities and tests.

The Online Learning Center ([www.mhhe.com/langan](http://www.mhhe.com/langan)) offers a number of instructional materials including an instructor's manual, test bank, and PowerPoint® slides that may be tailored to course needs.

## Connect Writing 2.0

Described in more detail inside the cover, this online site provides a personalized learning plan that continually diagnoses and adapts lessons and questions to students' strengths and weaknesses within the five core areas of grammar and mechanics.

Additionally, it offers digital tools developed by composition experts that support and engage your students with a variety of course activities, including: group assignments, discussion board assignments, web-based assignments, blog assignments, writing assignments with peer review and commenting.


## Connect LMS Integration

*Connect Writing* integrates with your local Learning Management System (Blackboard, Desire2Learn, and others.)

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Bonus content also includes an Appendix on Writing Résumés and Cover Letters and more.


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