

# Preface



## Exploring Personalized Learning Plan

*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 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 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 personalized 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, which look like the image above, appear next to the first heading of any chapter in this text with related content.

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 *Sentences and Paragraphs*, students are exposed to examples of writing that reflect the three key realms of their lives—personal, academic, and workplace. They will find models, activities, and examples for any writing situation. 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 including new academic and workplace-related writing examples and updated personal writing examples, *Exploring Writing: Sentences and Paragraphs 3/e* includes the following chapter-by-chapter changes:

## Part 1: Writing Skills and Process

- Coverage updated as needed

## Part 2: Writing Effective Paragraphs

- New sample paragraphs that reflect academic and workplace writing
- New Activities and Writing Assignments that reflect academic and workplace writing
- Updated personal writing examples
- Revised writing samples to eliminate use of second-person
- Inclusion of multiple across-chapter cross-references to related topics

## Chapter 5: Moving from Paragraph to Essay

- Coverage of essays with more than three supporting paragraphs
- Revised treatment of the use of questions in essay structuring
- Multiple new writing samples, Activities, and Writing Assignments that reflect academic and workplace writing

## Part 3: 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
- Inclusion of multiple across-chapter cross-references to related topics

## Part 4: Readings for Writers

- Readings updated to include four new selections by diverse and well-respected authors:
  - “Do What You Love” by Tony Hawk
  - “The First Day” by Edward P. Jones
  - “Somebody’s Baby” by Barbara Kingsolver
  - “Outcasts in Salt Lake City” by James Weldon Johnson
- Each new reading accompanied by a new full set of questions and assignments
- All assignments reflect either personal, academic, or workplace-related themes

## Book-Specific Supplements for Instructors

The **Annotated Instructor's Edition** 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, with the answers to the Discussion Questions in Part Four; test bank; and PowerPoint® slides that may be tailored to course needs. Additionally, you will find "Answers to Activities in Part Three" (former Appendix E) has been loaded to the open portion of this site for the book so that students can download and check their answers.

## 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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In addition to reordering and eliminating chapters in *Exploring Writing: Sentences and Paragraphs*, adding your own materials, or adding chapters from other McGraw-Hill textbooks, you may customize the readings in Part Four by eliminating or adding readings from other Langan titles or from other McGraw-Hill collections such as *The Ideal Reader* (800 readings by author, genre, mode, theme, and discipline), *Annual Editions* (5,500 articles from journals and periodicals), *Traditions* (readings in the humanities), *Sustainability* (readings with an environment focus), and *American History and World Civilization Documents* (primary sources including maps, charts, letters, memoirs, and essays).

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

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