

Great Writing 3

by Keith S. Folse , Eleva. Vestri , David Clabeaux · Language: EN

Summary by booksummaryai.com — <https://booksummaryai.com/country/en/great-writing-3>

Overview

Great Writing 3: From Great Paragraphs to Great Essays, by Keith S. Folse, Eleva Vestri, and David Clabeaux, is an academic writing textbook designed for intermediate English language learners (ELLs). It serves as a bridge between mastering paragraph structure and developing well-organized, coherent multi-paragraph essays. The book systematically guides students through the essential components of essay writing, building upon foundational skills to tackle more complex rhetorical modes.

The core argument of the book is that effective essay writing is a process that can be learned through clear instruction, practical examples, and consistent practice. It emphasizes the importance of a strong thesis statement, logical organization of ideas, detailed supporting evidence, and proper grammar and mechanics. By breaking down the essay writing process into manageable steps, from pre-writing and outlining to drafting, revising, and editing, the authors empower students to produce clear, focused, and grammatically accurate academic essays. The book matters because it provides a structured, accessible framework for ELLs to develop critical writing skills necessary for academic success and effective communication in English.

Key Takeaways

- Always begin an essay with a clear, focused thesis statement that presents the main argument or purpose of your writing.
- Ensure every body paragraph has a topic sentence that directly supports the essay's thesis statement.
- Support your main ideas with specific examples, facts, details, or explanations to make your writing convincing and clear.
- Organize your essay logically, using transition words and phrases to create smooth connections between sentences and paragraphs.
- Dedicate significant time to the revision and editing stages, focusing on content, organization, grammar, and mechanics.
- Understand the different rhetorical modes, such as descriptive, narrative, and opinion essays, to effectively convey various types of information.
- Practice outlining your essays before drafting to ensure a coherent structure and prevent disorganization.

- Pay close attention to feedback on your writing to identify areas for improvement and refine your skills over time.

Chapter Summaries

The Writing Process

This chapter introduces students to the cyclical nature of writing, covering key stages such as pre-writing, outlining, drafting, revising, and editing. It emphasizes that writing is not a single event but a series of steps to produce a polished final product, encouraging students to approach writing systematically.

Reviewing Paragraph Structure

Building on prior knowledge, this section revisits the fundamentals of a well-formed paragraph, including topic sentences, supporting sentences, and concluding sentences. It reinforces the concepts of unity and coherence as essential building blocks for longer essays.

Introducing the Essay: The Thesis Statement

This chapter focuses on the transition from paragraphs to essays, with a strong emphasis on the thesis statement. Students learn how to identify, develop, and refine a clear, concise, and arguable thesis statement that serves as the central idea for their entire essay.

Developing Body Paragraphs

Students learn how to construct effective body paragraphs that logically support the essay's thesis statement. The chapter covers topic sentences, providing specific details and examples, and ensuring coherence and unity within each paragraph and across the essay.

Writing Introductions and Conclusions

This section guides students through crafting compelling introductory paragraphs that hook the reader and present the thesis, and strong concluding paragraphs that summarize main points and offer a final thought without introducing new information.

Descriptive Essays

This chapter explores the art of descriptive writing, teaching students how to use vivid sensory details and precise vocabulary to create clear and engaging descriptions of people, places, objects, or experiences for their readers.

Narrative Essays

Focusing on storytelling, this chapter instructs students on how to write effective narrative essays. It covers elements such as plot, setting, characters, conflict, and resolution, guiding students to recount personal experiences or events in a compelling sequence.

Opinion Essays

This section teaches students how to express and support their opinions in a structured essay format. It covers forming a clear stance, providing logical reasons, and backing up arguments with evidence to persuade the reader effectively.

Comparison/Contrast Essays

Students learn techniques for writing essays that analyze similarities and differences between two or more subjects. The chapter covers organizational patterns like block and point-by-point methods, and using appropriate transition words for comparison and contrast.

Grammar and Mechanics for Essays

This final chapter provides a comprehensive review of essential grammar, punctuation, and mechanics rules crucial for academic writing. It addresses common errors and offers strategies for proofreading to ensure accuracy and clarity in essays.

Themes

- Academic Writing Skills
- Essay Structure
- Writing Process
- Rhetorical Modes
- Grammar and Mechanics

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Great Writing 3 about?

Great Writing 3 is an English language learning textbook focused on teaching intermediate students how to write well-structured, coherent multi-paragraph essays. It covers the entire writing process, from developing a thesis statement and organizing ideas to drafting, revising, and editing various types of essays like descriptive, narrative, and opinion pieces.

Is Great Writing 3 worth reading?

Yes, Great Writing 3 is highly recommended for intermediate English language learners seeking to improve their academic writing skills. Its systematic approach, clear explanations, and practical exercises make it an effective resource for mastering essay structure and developing confidence in written expression.

Who should read Great Writing 3?

Great Writing 3 is ideal for intermediate English as a Second Language (ESL) or English as a Foreign Language (EFL) students. It is particularly beneficial for those transitioning from paragraph writing to essay writing, or for anyone preparing for academic courses that require strong essay composition skills.

How long does it take to read Great Writing 3?

To thoroughly work through Great Writing 3, including understanding the concepts, completing the exercises, and practicing the writing tasks, it would realistically take a student several weeks to a few months, depending on their study pace. Simply reading the instructional content might take approximately 8-10 hours.