

## Writing Resources

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### Planning

#### Graphic Organizers also Revising

[Bubbl.us](#) (free)

[Draft:Builder](#) (Don Johnston.com) \$159/single copy

[Exploratree](#) (free)

[Inspiration](#) \$69/single copy; 30 day free trial

[Kidspiration](#) \$69/single copy

[mindmeister](#) (free)

[slatebox](#) (free)

[spicynodes](#) (free)

[spiderscribe](#) (free)

[Webspiration](#) (subscription online graphic organizer by makers of Inspiration )

[WiseMapping](#) (free)

#### Picture Supports/Poetry Frame

[Fodey](#) (create an animated tomato, squirrel, etc.)

[Fotobabble](#) (create and share talking photos)

[Glogster](#) (site for making poster that can contain text, pictures, video and music)

[Phrase.It](#) (add speech bubbles to pictures)

[PicLits](#) (site for writing about pictures)

[Portrait Poems](#) (8 poems that can be used for poetry frames)

[Quips](#) (record up to 30 seconds and voice-tag writing, pictures, etc.)

[Readwritethink](#) (shape poems and other activities)

[Speechable](#) (site for adding speech bubbles to photos)

#### Sites for Videos for Activation of Background Knowledge

[BBC Earth](#) (short videos on YouTube from BBC Earth)

[Discovery Education](#) (subscription-based)

[Internet Archive](#) (library of free videos)

[National Geographic](#) (videos on YouTube from National Geographic)  
[Teachers' Domain](#) (free digital media service for educational use from public broadcasting and its partners)  
[The Open Video Project](#) (shared video collection)  
[TeacherTube](#) (video sharing for teachers)  
[WatchKnowLearn](#) (site for videos for educators)  
[YouTube](#) (sites for many great videos)

## Drafting

[Evernote](#) (can insert pictures, audio files, screen shots of your computer and text to notes that can be synced to all your computers and iPad)  
[Google Docs](#) (free cloud-based documents, spread sheets, presentations and more that support collaboration)  
[Lucidpress](#) (free site for creating a multimedia presentation; can create own layout or choose one of theirs) also **Writing in a Social Context** and **Publication**; can collaborate and share with others  
[Nanoogo](#) (free site for writing stories with option of adding art work, pictures, speech bubbles, and more. A teacher option allows creating a site for an entire class)  
[Oneword](#) (similar to a "can't stop writing" strategy)  
[Penzu](#) (digital diary)  
[Open Office](#) (free suite of writing tools)  
[Thumscribes](#) (site for collaborative writing of short poems, haiku, and more)  
[Zoho Writer](#) (cloud-based word processor and more with free version)  
[Zopler](#) (site for writing collaborative stories)

## Revising

[Macs](#) have built-in text-to-speech

[Snap&Read](#) \$130/single copy, will read anything online including flash

### Free Word Clouds

[TagCrowd](#)

[Tagul](#)

[Tagxedo](#) (need to download Silverlight; can create words in shapes)

[VocabGrabber](#)

[Wordle](#)

[Word It Out](#)

[WordSift](#)

### Other Word Level Tools

[Dictionary.com](#) (online dictionary)

[GCF LearnFree](#) (video dictionary for defining words)

[The Idiom Connection](#) (lots of examples of idioms)

[Shahi](#) (visual dictionary)

[The Visual Dictionary](#) (visual dictionary)

[Snappy Words](#) (free visual dictionary)

[Textalyser](#) (free online sophisticated text analyzer)

[VisualThesaurus](#) (subscription based)

[Visuwords](#) (free online graphical dictionary)

[VOA Learning English](#) (site that includes word and idiom dictionaries with speech support)

[Word Hippo](#) (find definitions, synonyms, antonyms, and more)

### Sentence Level Tools

BBC's [Sentence Logging](#) (to play with sentence structure), [Make a Sentence Game](#), [Sentence or Not](#),

[Mr. Maite's Sentence Exercises](#).

[Sentence Sense](#). (Sentence writing exercises might show students possibilities.)

[Super Sentence Maker](#). (Intended to help kids develop sentence writing abilities as well as improve their voice and written expression.)

Sentence Sense Combining Sentences. (To learn to write more complex sentences.)

### Recording Tools

Livescribe pens (smartpen for recording and listening to what was recorded)  
also **WP**

Screencast-o-matic (free recording of screen for up to 15 minutes)  
Voki (create avatar with recorded speech or text) also **Motivation**

### Editing

PaperRater (free grammar and spell checker; also **Revision** for suggestions for improvements in word choices, vocabulary, etc.)

### Production

Clicker 6 is a talking word processor with word prediction and word bars; \$300/single copy; also **Production, Drafting, Revision, Editing**

Intellikeys alternative keyboard, \$395.

Solo Suite that includes a text reader, **Read OutLoud**, graphic organizer, **Draft Builder**, talking word processor, **Write OutLoud** and word prediction, **Co:Writer**; \$699/single copy. Also, programs can be purchased separately also **Production, Drafting, Revision, Editing**

WriteOnline is talking word processor for middle school and above with word prediction, word banks, and graphic organizer, \$300/single copy also

**Production, Drafting, Revision, Editing**

Writing with Alternative Pencils from Center for Literacy and Disabilities Studies, cd with alternative pencils/\$35.

### Motivation

DJ Kear, GA Coffman, MG McKenna, Al Ambrosio Measuring attitude toward writing: A new tool for teachers. *Reading Teacher*, 54, 10-23.

## **Publishing also Writing in a Social Context and Motivation**

### **Sites for Writing Comics**

[Artisancam](#) (create comics with action figures)

[Bitstrips](#) (create avatars)

[Bubblr](#) (create comics with flickr images)

[Chogger](#) (create comics with web-cam or drawings)

[Comic Life](#) (create comics with photos) \$29.99/single copy

[Culture Street](#) (create up to 6 page books with zoo animals, backgrounds, and text that can be emailed or printed)

[Funny Times](#) (create cartoons)

[KB...Konnnected](#) (source for many sites to create comics)

[Make Beliefs Comix](#) (make comics and social stories; has comic characters with disabilities)

[Marvel](#) (create your own comics using super heroes)

[PhraseIt](#) (add speech bubbles to photos)

[Pixton](#) (can create pdf or embed in site)

[Storyboard That](#) (create storyboards with scenes, characters, and texts)

[Witty Comics](#) (site for making simple comics)

[Zimmer Twins](#) (make a cartoon movie with text)

### **Sites for Digital Storytelling also Production**

[Animoto](#) (site for adding music to slides to make video; apply for educator account)

[Photo Peach](#) (create video with pictures, text, and music)

[Voicethread](#) (site for creating stories using digital photos; can create 3 for free)

[Capzles](#) (create a story with audio, pictures, video and text in a timeline)

[Picture Trail](#) (create slideshow with pictures and text)

[Roxio Photo Show](#) (create slideshow with pictures; can add music and text but with free version shows are only kept online for 30 days)

[Utellstory](#) (create slideshow with pictures, text, video, and audio)

### **Sites for Writing Digital Books**

[Little Bird Tales](#) (create a story using art work or photos and record student reading it)

[Picture a Story](#) (write a short story about art work and record narration)

[Story Jumper](#) (create books using characters, settings, and props)

[Storybird](#) (site for creating books using art)

[Tar Heel Reader](#) (a collection free, easy-to-read, accessible books; can write books after entering the invitation code)

[ZooBurst](#) (can create ten 3-D books with free version)

### **Sites for Blogging, Micro-blogging, Email, Wikis, and Instant Messaging**

also **Writing in a Social Context**

[Blogger](#) (site for creating a blog)

[Gaggle](#) (can apply for free email for students; lots of features included like blogging and speech support)

[Gmail](#) (email with instant chat feature)

[Kidblog](#) (simple and safe blogs for students)

[PBworks](#) (free wiki)

[Skype](#) (instant messaging)

[Twitter](#) (create 140 character tweets)

[Word Press](#) (site for creating a blog or website)

### **Literacy Resources/Examples/Miscellaneous**

[Building Wings](#) (wiki about the book Building Wings written by students with disabilities at Highland Park Junior High)

[Camp Courage now part of True Friends](#) (site for a Literacy Camp for struggling readers)

[CAST](#) (resource for UDL, universal design for learning)

[Center for Literacy and Disabilities Studies](#) (Karen Erickson's center. Site with many terrific resources)

[Common Core State Standards](#) (links to writing standards for K-12)

[Dave Koppenhaver's Literacy & Disability Site](#) (many free resources)

[Fotobabble](#) (create and share talking photos)

[Free Technology for Teachers](#) (great blog that updates free technology for teachers; email and Facebook versions also available)

[International Reading Association](#) (literacy related podcasts sponsored by IRA)

[Jane Farrall](#) (SLP from Australia. Lots of information on literacy, aac, and apps)

[Ozge Karaoglu's Blog](#) (excellent blog for resources on writing and other web 2.0 sites)

[QWIPS](#) (record messages and voice-tag writing, pictures, etc.)

[Reading Lady](#) (information on comprehension strategies, writing, poetry and more)

[Screencast-o-matic](#) (free screen capture recording, up to 15 minutes)

[The Super Book of Web Resources for Educators](#) (The name is accurate!)

[Tnellen](#) (8 poems that could be used for poetry frames)

[Virtual Authors](#) (blog for students with disabilities)

[Voki](#) (create a avatar; can use text or record a message to make avatar speak)

[Web 2.0: Cool Tools for School](#) (lots of web 2.0 resources, including writing tools)