

**THE WRITING CLUB**

Sydney's writing specialist

**FREE RESOURCE**

# The Writing Formula

A step-by-step guide to strong writing  
for school and beyond.

Castle Hill · Thornleigh · Online

## START HERE

# Writing is a craft — and it can be taught.

Most students are never explicitly taught how to write. They are given topics, asked to produce work, and marked on the result — but rarely shown the process that gets them there. The good news is that strong writing is not a talent reserved for a lucky few. It is a craft, built from a set of learnable, repeatable skills.

At The Writing Club, every class follows the same five-step process, applied at each year level — from a Year 1 student writing their first structured paragraph to a Year 10 student preparing for senior English. This guide distils that process so you can understand what genuinely moves a young writer forward, and use it at home.

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## THE BIG IDEA

Writing isn't a single skill. It encompasses three interlocking disciplines — and improvement comes from working on all three together:

- **Language mechanics.** Grammar, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary and sentence variety — the technical foundation underneath every piece.
- **Writing forms.** The structures of each text type: persuasive, narrative, analytical, informative, discursive and more.
- **Reading comprehension.** Strong writers start as strong readers. Inference, tone and author intent feed directly back into better writing.



## THE FIVE-STEP FORMULA

# How every strong piece of writing is built.

This is the cycle we run in every class. It works just as well at the kitchen table. The aim isn't to write more — it's to write, reflect, and rewrite with intent.

### 01 Teach

Name the skill before using it. Whether it's a persuasive structure, a punctuation rule, or a way to open a narrative, the writer needs to understand the technique explicitly — not absorb it by accident.

### 02 Model

Show what 'good' looks like. Read strong examples together and pull them apart: why does this opening work? What makes this argument convincing? Modelling turns a vague goal into a concrete target.

### 03 Write

Apply the technique in a real piece, ideally under realistic conditions. For exam skills, that means timed writing. Skill only becomes ability when it's used.

### 04 Feedback

Give specific, written feedback on that exact piece. Not 'good effort' — line-by-line commentary that says precisely what worked, what didn't, and what to change next time.

### 05 Improve

Redraft and apply the feedback while it's fresh. This is the step most often skipped, and it's where the real learning happens. The rewrite is the lesson.



## PUT IT TO WORK

# Two structures every student should own.

Most school and exam writing tasks are a version of these two forms. Internalise the skeleton, and planning under time pressure becomes far easier.

### Persuasive writing

- **Hook + position.** Open with something that grabs attention, then state your stance clearly.
- **Argument one.** Strongest point first — claim, evidence, explanation.
- **Argument two & three.** Each its own paragraph; vary sentence length to control pace and emphasis.
- **Address the other side.** Acknowledge a counter-argument and dismantle it. This signals maturity to markers.
- **Conclusion.** Restate your position with force. End on a line that lands.

### Narrative writing

- **Orientation.** Establish character, place and mood quickly — show, don't tell.
- **Complication.** Introduce the problem or tension that drives the story.
- **Rising action.** Build stakes; use specific, sensory detail over generic description.
- **Climax.** The turning point — the moment everything hinges on.
- **Resolution.** Resolve with intent, and leave the reader with a feeling, not just an ending.



## BEFORE YOU SUBMIT

# The five-minute editing checklist.

Train your child to run every finished piece through these checks. Editing is a skill in itself — and an easy source of marks.

- ☐ Does every paragraph do one clear job?
- ☐ Is the opening sharp — would it make a marker keep reading?
- ☐ Have I varied my sentence lengths and openings?
- ☐ Is my vocabulary precise, not just long?
- ☐ Have I read it aloud to catch clumsy or run-on sentences?
- ☐ Are grammar, punctuation and spelling clean?
- ☐ Does the ending land, or does it just stop?

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## WHAT GOOD WRITING EARNS

Worked at consistently, this process compounds. Students who write this way develop:

- **Clear, structured writing across every text type**
- **Stronger grammar, punctuation and vocabulary**
- **Sharper analytical thinking and text response skills**
- **Confidence writing under timed, exam conditions**
- **Better results across English and the humanities**
- **A genuine, lasting writing habit**



## NEXT STEP

# See the formula in action.

Reading about the process is one thing — watching it work for your child is another. Book a free, no-obligation writing assessment at our Castle Hill or Thornleigh centre. We'll assess where your child is, show you exactly what to work on, and recommend the right program.

**Book your free assessment**  
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