

## The *LearningSuccess*<sup>™</sup> Writing Program

The *LearningSuccess*<sup>™</sup> Writing Program, by Mariaemma Willis, M.S. and Victoria Kindle Hodson, M.A., is based on the work of Tony Buzan who invented Mind Mapping. Mind Mapping is an amazing technique that works with the brain in order to process, organize, and remember information. It is used by college students, corporate executives, and even judges and attorneys to take notes during trials. This technique is so powerful that some teachers refuse to use it because what ends up happening is that all students excel and then “it’s not possible to tell who’s smart and who isn’t” (an actual quote from teachers).

The *LearningSuccess*<sup>™</sup> Writing Program has further developed the mapping technique for teaching writing and thinking skills, and put it into a step-by-step format for parents and teachers. It also incorporates other concepts that are taught at the *LearningSuccess*<sup>™</sup> Institute:

Learning Style friendly - appeals to all learning styles

4 Periods of learning - doesn’t skip steps and provides plenty of time to learn at each step

Personal Best - students start where they are and go at their own pace - they cannot make a mistake, everyone is successful

This program is the foundation for learning to write. It teaches the skills of:

- **careful observation:** noting details, seeing similarities and differences, and visualizing
- **enthusiastic brainstorming:** verbalizing ideas as they come to mind, keeping ideas flowing, and making unusual connections (the *prerequisite* for really good writing!)
- **analytical thinking:** recognizing whole and part, getting the main idea, drawing conclusions, structuring information

There is no other writing program that teaches these essential skills; every other writing program skips these essential foundational lessons for learning to write.

The program is divided into two parts.

*Part 1: Laying the Foundation* - Lesson plans for 18 weeks make writing fun for even the most reluctant writers. The course focuses on observation, brainstorming, and organization skills. There is no sentence writing in this part and positive learning experiences are built in.

*Part 2: Building on the Foundation—Blueprints for Paragraphs and Reports* - Lesson plans for 36 weeks pick up where Part 1 left off. Using the analogy of building a teepee, a cabin, and house it guides students of all ages step by step in writing sentences, paragraphs, and reports, utilizing the information mapping approach taught in Part 1.

It is important to remember that some students (including adults!) are petrified of writing because of negative learning experiences connected to writing, or simply because they are not Print/Writing Learners. The ***number one requirement for learning to take place is emotional safety!*** Students who are scared or upset can’t learn. This program creates a “safe” learning situation and helps students build new, positive connections with the material to be learned.

For those students who like to write or have a talent for writing, this program enhances their skills and makes them even more effective writers.

Victoria and Mariaemma have used the techniques in this program for over 20 years - in the classroom as well as with individual homeschooled learners and adults - with amazing results. Here are a few of the many testimonials they have received:

## **The LearningSuccess™ Writing Program**

### **Testimonials from Users**

*If you are home schooling you will love this step-by-step, week-by-week, day-by-day guide.* Homeschool Mom

*Before I took this course I wrote by accident and always worried that it wasn't good enough. Now I write on purpose & know it's good.* Health Care Professional

*I've always hated to write. Now I get it; writing is easy now! I love this program!* 12th grade Student

*I wish I would have learned this when I was in school. It sure would have made high school and college easier.* Parent

*I could never pass the promotion test at work because I couldn't organize my thoughts to write them down. With this method I passed, and now others at work are asking me how I did it!* Professional

*Well, I finally understand how to do a book report!* Parent

*I love this; I can do this!* Elementary School Student