

## Writing and Grammar: Communication in Action Handbook, Gold

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EDITION - 1st Edition

Grade Level	Ninth Grade
Readability Level	None
Course / Content	Language Arts
List Price:	\$38.71
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*The features of each book or program were developed by the publisher and do not reflect the opinion of the Kentucky State Review Team Kentucky State Textbook Commission or the Kentucky Department of Education.*

Content	Prentice Hall Writing and Grammar: Communication in Action is designed to develop effective writers through comprehensive, step-by-step instruction. The student text provides extensive practice opportunities for all stages of the writing process.
Student Experiences	A yearlong, independent Learner Verification study indicates that students using Prentice Hall's WRITING AND GRAMMAR perform significantly better on standardized tests than students using other programs. The effectiveness was evaluated using nationally approved testing measures and the results show significant improvement in both writing and grammar test scores.
Assessment	Embedded Writing and Grammar benchmarking throughout handbook ensure skills mastery and diagnose readiness.
Organization	Prentice Hall Writing and Grammar: Communication in Action is conveniently divided into the following three sections for ease of use: ~ Writing guides students through each step of the writing process with an emphasis on revision. ~ Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics provides more grammar practice than any other program and includes unique hands-on grammar activities. ~ Academic and Workplace Skills focuses on practical, real-world skills for today's multimedia generation.
Resource Materials	
Gratis Items to be provided and under what conditions	Yes - Free upon request, 1 per teacher user with a minimum purchase of 25 Student Editions: ¥ Writing & Grammar Handbook Answer Key, Gold
Available Ancillary Materials	

### Research Data and Evidence of Effectiveness

*Disclaimer: the research data and evidence of effectiveness was provided by the publisher and does not reflect the opinion of the State Review Team, the State Textbook Commission, or the Kentucky Department of Education.*

Research Available	YES - provide information below In school year 2001-2002, Prentice Hall asked William M. Bailey, of the independent research firm WMB & ASSOCIATES, to conduct a study to determine whether students enrolled in classes using WRITING AND GRAMMAR significantly increased their writing and grammar test scores after using the program for a full school year as compared to students using different textbook materials. Mr. Bailey is an independent statistician and market analyst with more than fifteen years of experience in the design, execution, interpretation, and reporting of qualitative and quantitative research studies in educational and consumer research.
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The goal of the research was to determine:

- 1) Whether the pre-test scores for the treatment group and the control group showed significant differences at the starting point of the study;
- 2) Whether overall writing and grammar knowledge and skills increased/decreased, or stayed the same from the pre-test to the post-test among students using Prentice Hall WRITING AND GRAMMAR and among students using their incumbent textbook program; and
- 3) Whether the students in the treatment and control groups showed significant learning improvement in key diagnostic areas for writing and grammar.

The research consisted of two groups of students: a treatment group to whom the Prentice Hall textbook program was administered and a control group to whom the program was not administered. Both groups were tested prior to the program's introduction and then again at the end of the school year. To determine the pre-test and post-test scores, nationally approved testing measures were used such as NCE (Normal Curve Equivalent), the OPI (Objectives Performance Index) of the TerraNova CTBS« Complete Battery Plus Exam, and a 6-point, holistic scoring scale for writing assessment developed by ETS Technologies.

To evaluate student grammar skills, the language mechanics portion of the TerraNova CTBS« Complete Battery Plus Exam was used.

The research indicates that students using the Prentice Hall WRITING AND GRAMMAR: COMMUNICATION IN ACTION program showed significant improvement in grammar test scores from the pre-test to the post-test. At the same time the research indicates that students using other textbook programs did not show a significant improvement in grammar scores from the pre-test to the post-test.

To evaluate students' writing skills, the 10th grade persuasive prompt of the CTB Writing Assessment was used, in addition to the standardized test.

Findings indicate that students using the Prentice Hall WRITING AND GRAMMAR: COMMUNICATION IN ACTION program showed significant improvement in writing test scores from the pre-test to the post-test. At the same time the research indicates that students using other textbook programs did not show a significant improvement in writing test scores from the pre-test to the post-test.

The results of the study showed significant overall learning improvement in both grammar and writing scores of students using WRITING AND GRAMMAR. The results of the effect size analysis indicate that the score of the average student in the treatment group:

- ⌋ Increased from the 50th percentile on the grammar pre-test to the 62nd percentile on the grammar post-test and
- ⌋ Increased from the 50th percentile on the writing pre-test to the 69th percentile on the writing post-test.

In contrast, the control students did not achieve significant learning improvement in overall grammar or writing skills, remaining at about the 50th percentile from pre- to post-testing.

In addition, the treatment group outperformed the control group on the overall post-test scores for both the grammar test and the writing assessment. Results of the effect size analysis indicate that the score of the average student in the treatment group:

- ⌋ Exceeded the scores of 64% of the control group students on the grammar post-test.
- ⌋ Exceeded the scores of 62% of the control group students on the writing post-

test.

Based upon the results of this scientifically based independent study, students using the Prentice Hall WRITING AND GRAMMAR: COMMUNICATION IN ACTION program can significantly improve their writing and grammar test scores in one academic year when compared to other textbook programs.

Visit [www.phschool.com/research](http://www.phschool.com/research) for more information.

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### Overall Strength and/or Weaknesses

**Disclaimer:** Comments on the strengths and/or weaknesses of each book, material or program were written by members of the State Textbook/Instructional Materials Review Team and reflect their opinions. They do not reflect the opinions of the State Textbook Commission nor the Kentucky Department of Education. In addition, the State Textbook/Instructional Materials Review Team completed each evaluation form during summer of 2005. In order to maintain the integrity of the review team's comments, editing was limited to spelling and punctuation.

Recommendations: Provides a solid general course in writing, publishing, and study skills. Does not include much material on audience analysis or purpose in writing. Most writing tasks are not authentic in nature; they are more teacher-response forms than authentic writing forms. The lack of teacher materials (i.e. teacher answer key only) suggests that company assumes that the school will purchase the entire literature course/program.

### Summary Form

I.	Technology Component Summary	
II.	Reading Content Summary	1
III.	Writing Content Summary	1.67
IV.	Grammar and Spelling Content Summary	
V.	Journalism / Media Content Summary	
VI.	Listening /Speaking / Observing Content Summary	
VII.	Inquiry Content Summary	
VIII.	Technology Content Summary	
IX.	Audience: Teacher and Student Materials Content Summary	0.67
X.	Format Content Summary	1
XI.	Ancillary Materials Content Summary	

### READING CONTENT

Provides handbook style instruction with no materials for practice.

### WRITING CONTENT

Very limited in scope.

Practice is both in isolation and in context.

Only an answer key is included.