



# Deaf Students Can Transfer Writing Skills From One Taught Genre to Other Untaught Genres

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## Topic & Purpose

Writers do not easily transfer knowledge from one genre to another without explicit instruction. A focus on metacognitive skills in writing instruction can facilitate transfer of learning. This happens when the writer makes connections between prior knowledge and newly learned concepts, while attending to audience and purpose. This study examined the impact of Strategic Interactive Writing Instruction (SIWI) across one year of elementary instruction with 37 deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) students as they learned to write three genres in succession: a narrative or recount, information report, and persuasive. instruction with deaf students.

- The students ranged in oral and/or sign language competencies. Instructors rated 40% of students as able to express most things fluently in their primary expressive language.
- A rubric was developed to evaluate students' writings, looking at their introduction, content, and organization of ideas.
- Students provided writing samples of each genre before and after receiving SIWI that focused on each genre.

## Study Outline

## Findings

- After receiving SIWI targeting recount writing skills, students' recount writing skills increased and were maintained over time.
- Prior to receiving SIWI targeting writing skills in other genres, students' writing skills in other genres (e.g., persuasive writing and information report writing) also improved.
- Evidence is presented that students transfer what they learned from recount writing to successfully write in other untargeted genres.

Writing instruction that explicitly addresses the uniqueness of each genre and commonalities among them has the potential to impact students' knowledge of writing that lasts beyond immediate instruction and supports writing in untaught genres. Students benefit from being explicitly taught writing strategies that facilitate the transfer of skills-- how to orient the audience with a topic or opening statement, organize the text based on features of the genre, and include relevant content.

## Ideas to Consider

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