

WriteBrain Case Study

Summary

North Ridge Elementary School, Wake County, North Carolina

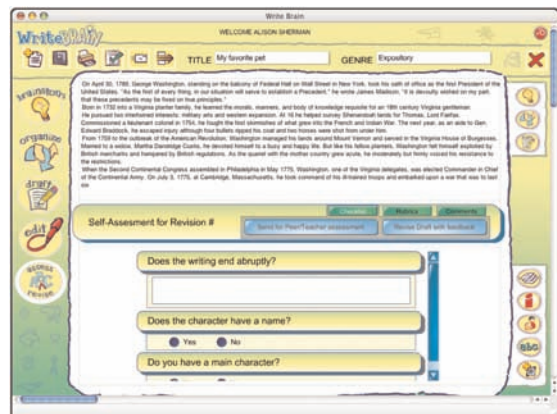
For the 2006-07 school year North Ridge Elementary School placed a strong focus on improving writing skills for all 4th graders, in preparation for the North Carolina state writing exam. The WriteBrain program was an integrated piece of that revamped writing curriculum. Fifty-two (52) 4th grade students used WriteBrain during this school year, comprising 40% of the grade. Some students used WriteBrain two or three times a week, both with teachers and independently in the computer lab and at home. Select parents were also trained on the program so they could facilitate their students' usage at home.

North Ridge Demographics

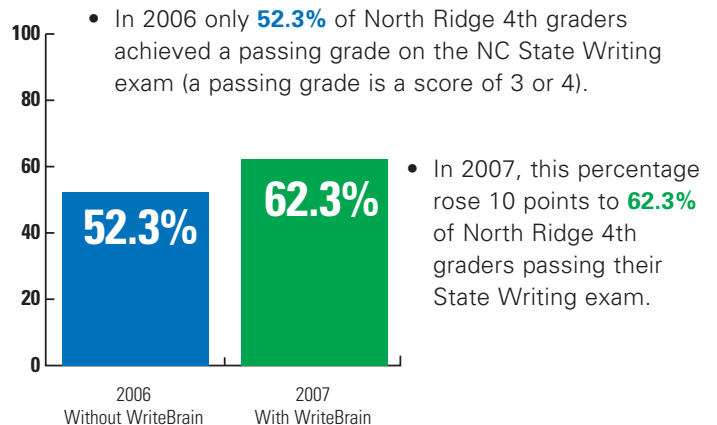
- 840 students
- 57 teachers
- 40% Free & Reduced Lunch
- 48% Minority

“Several of the students worked on four different writing assignments, completing and submitting many drafts for each assignment. The students never would have done that many drafts if they were writing on paper. The WriteBrain program helped students to revise and improve their writing.”

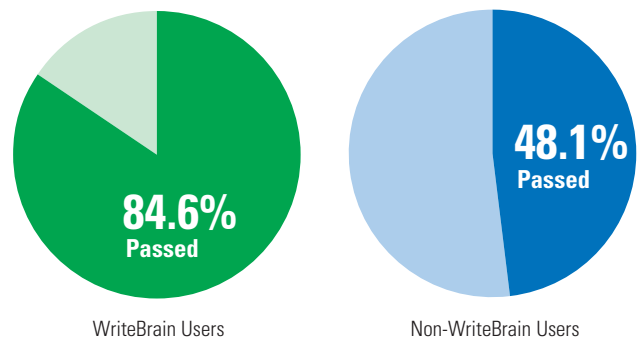
— Carol W., Writing Instruction Assistant



Test Score Results



- **84.6%** of WriteBrain-users (44/52) passed the test vs. **48.1%** of non-WriteBrain-users (37/77)



Fourth Grade	With WriteBrain	vs.	Without WriteBrain
Average Achievement Level			
Average Achievement level for all students was 2.61 out of 4.	2.87	vs.	2.44
Average Content score			
Average Content score for all students was 8.9 out of 16.	9.5	vs.	8.5
Average Conventions score			
Average Conventions score for all students was 3.1 out of 4.	3.7	vs.	2.7



WriteBrain Case Study

Here's what teachers and students from North Ridge Elementary School are saying about WriteBrain.

Teacher Testimonials:

"Our students used to plan their stories and then put that planning aside when they began to write a draft. But the copy and paste feature from the brainstorming and organizing cards in WriteBrain helped to ensure that they incorporated their planning in their story."

-Jane Q., Instructional Resource Teacher

"Using WriteBrain was a strong motivator for the students. They looked forward to it and asked to use the program. Students often chose to use WriteBrain in the computer lab when they had free time. Several students asked to use the program at home."

-Rebekah W., Technology Facilitator

"The children really became proficient with the WriteBrain program and were able to use it independently, without teacher supervision."

-Rebekah W., Technology Facilitator

"The self-assessment and highlighting areas were great reinforcements of what had been learned in the classroom."

-Jane Q., Instructional Resource Teacher

"The students loved the peer assessment capabilities and were often more critical of their peer's work than of their own. The peer assessment task is a great skill for them to learn."

-Jane Q., Instructional Resource Teacher

"The integration of rubrics in WriteBrain really helped students to understand how their writing is scored on the standardized exams, and that reviewers are not arbitrarily scoring them but rather are looking for specific features."

-Carol W., Writing Instruction Assistant

Student Testimonials:

Overall, students liked using WriteBrain and said that it made them want to write more.

"I liked going through the different writing steps. It reminded me how to write better."

-Ashley, grade 4

"WriteBrain helped me to plan and organize better. Also, using it at home gave me more time to write."

-Chloe, grade 4

"WriteBrain made it easier to do a rough draft."

-Adrianna, grade 4

"Using the computer and the keyboard makes it easier to write instead of using a paper and pencil."

-Madeline, grade 4

"I liked being able to send my story to friends."

-Audrey, grade 4

"I would give WriteBrain 4 1/2 out of 5 stars!"

-Eric, grade 4

"WriteBrain helped me to plan out my story and to think of the whole story in my head."

— Eric, grade 4