Three Strategies for Driving Writing Proficiency

Adapted from the white paper *Achieving Writing Proficiency—The Research on Practice, Feedback, & Revision* by Troy Hicks, PhD, Professor of English & Education, Central Michigan University*

Strategy One: **Practice**

What Research Tells Us: Writers need scaffolded practice that connects instruction to feedback, accompanied by ongoing support.

Bring It to the Classroom:
- Assign practice from a variety of genres, accompanied by standards-based rubrics, effective prompts, guiding criteria, and sample writing
- Monitor students' strengths and weaknesses throughout the writing process
- Apply differentiation by modifying the overall structure of the assignment or adding personalized follow-up or scaffolding such as sentence or paragraph starters

Strategy Two: **Feedback**

What Research Tells Us: Feedback inspires revision and is most effective when it's connected to instruction and put into context in a way that combines teacher-, peer-, and self-review.

Bring It to the Classroom:
- Make rubrics transparent, understandable, and available to students so they understand their learning goals and take ownership of their learning
- Focus students on meta-cognitive behaviors and encourage them to think about the strategies they use, as writers
- Guide students with a process of focused and calibrated peer review using student-friendly rubrics, sentence stems, and support and practice in giving constructive feedback

Strategy Three: **Revision**

What Research Tells Us: Better revision leads to a writer's growth and is most effective when emphasized as a holistic part of the writing process.

Bring It to the Classroom:
- Drive focused revisions through rubric-directed, anonymous peer review
- Make revision more accessible and actionable with multiple feedback types, such as self-assessments, calibrated peer reviews, and comparison to mentor texts
- Promote revisions as a meaningful part of the writing process, just as important as brainstorming, drafting, or editing

*Download the full white paper at
learn.hmhco.com/writable-white-paper