

SCORE A:

A Student Research Paper Writing Strategy

Korinek, L., & Bulls, J.A. (1996, Summer). SCORE A: A student research paper writing strategy. *Teaching Exceptional Children*, 60-63.

SCORE A is a writing strategy that covers the development of a topical research paper. It provides a concrete, sequential structure for students to develop and write papers on selected topics. You need to assess prerequisite skills: outlining, scanning literature, paraphrasing, and paragraph writing. If necessary, teach these skills before starting the paper. Allow at least 6-9 weeks to work on the SCORE A process, to ensure student mastery and provide feedback. Model each step and have students practice. The student papers serve as a posttest for the SCORE A strategy.

Select a Subject

- Topic can either be assigned or student selected.

Create Categories

- Students generate possible subtopics or categories under the selected subject.
- Identify categories to be researched
- Provide individual copies of an empty graphic organizer (see figure 1)
 - The top-down graphic serves as a visual reference for organization of the research paper.

Obtain Sources

- Help students choose relevant resources at the appropriate reading level.

Read and Take Notes

- Students paraphrase information and write it on note cards
 - Cards include: title of source, page number, category title, and one fact

Evenly Organize Information

- Students make heading cards for each category listed on the category sheet.
- Note cards are placed under the appropriate category heading according to importance.

Apply the Process Writing Steps

- Process Writing Steps include:
 - Planning or prewriting
 - Drafting or writing
 - Revising or rewriting
- In this final step, students draft, edit, and rewrite their papers with feedback from peers and the teachers. Students construct paragraphs for each category of information and write an introduction and a conclusion to their papers.

Figure 1
Top-Down Graphic Organizer

