

## Quotes from Students...

It's the new way of writing!

-Anita Ng, Dana MS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

It improves your writing.

-Diana Nguyen, Dana MS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Quotes from Teachers... and a parent!

Students love the immediate feedback and eagerly compare each new effort with their last, rather than with other students.

-Marlene Sereno, Dana MS

With MY Access students enjoy being able to go back and improve their writing. If nothing else, MY Access encourages students to write more!

-Linda Davis, First Avenue MS

I have never in 30 years of teaching seen anything motivate students to write like My Access. A student who struggles with writing can improve with a little perseverance.

-Dr. Glen Green, Dana MS

Students write more! Instant feedback gives them incentive to improve >

-Cindy Britton, Foothills MS

I love it! It makes my child really think and work hard!

-(anonymous) MS Parent



## Suggestions for Parents

- ✍ Coach, don't write for your child. Students need to do their own drafting, revising, and editing with you on the sidelines.
- ✍ Look first for what is done well in the writing and offer praise. Writing is a challenging task. Students need encouragement to be successful.
- ✍ When working with your child, focus on ideas and content first. Save editing until the ideas are clear, complete, and focused.
- ✍ Ask your child to read his/her writing aloud and listen for clarity of ideas and fluency.
- ✍ Read aloud to your children from newspapers, magazines, poetry, descriptions from travel brochures, and instructions on toys, games.
- ✍ Encourage your children to read, read, read! Better readers make better writers!

## For more information, visit these websites:

MY Access

<http://www.gomyaccess.com>

Research: IntelleMetric Essay Scoring System (Journal of Technology, Learning and Assessment, March 2006)

<http://www.vantagelearning.com/school/research/intellimetric.html>



# Parent Information



MY Access is an online writing program that supports students as writers by providing writing tools and timely, descriptive feedback to improve their writing.

In Arcadia Unified School District, writing instruction is based on the Six Traits of Quality Writing. MY Access is one of many tools used to support the writing process and focus on ideas, organization, word choice, voice, sentence fluency and conventions.

MY Access can be used at school, at home, in the library, anywhere there is internet access!

## What is MY Access?

MY Access!® is an award-winning, web-delivered instructional tool that diagnoses and assesses the writing ability of students in grades 4-12 and at the college level. With MY Access!, students are motivated to write more, strengthen their writing skills in all subjects, and attain higher scores on writing assessments.

The program's powerful scoring engine (MY Access IntelliMetric Essay Scoring System) grades students' essays instantly and provides targeted feedback. This allows teachers more time to conference with students, focusing on ideas, organization and voice, aspects of writing that are difficult to evaluate electronically.

## Who is using MY Access?

Currently, fourth and fifth graders at Arcadia's six elementary schools, general education, special education and ELD students at the three middle schools and special education and ELD students at Arcadia High School are using MY Access.

Targeted staff development is provided to guide instruction and assessment using resources available in MY Access. Teachers have attended a minimum of three days of training with MY Access. Key teachers at each school provide additional support as needed.



## How does MY Access work?

Everything is electronic!

Teachers select and assign a writing prompt from the MY Access library or create a personalized prompt. All prompts connect to AUSD English Language Arts content standards, classroom instruction, and student needs. Prompts include scoring guides, writing tools to support students and additional information, if needed.

Teachers introduce the prompt and teach students how to 'deconstruct' it so they have clarity about the writing task. Students complete a pre-write which helps them organize their thinking before they write.

Students access the prompt either at school or at home via the Internet. After completing their pre-writing, students enter text directly into MY Access. Work should be saved, then submitted for scoring.

Feedback provided to students is quick and filled with details. In addition to an overall (holistic) score, scores are also provided in the following areas:

- ✍ Focus (Ideas)
- ✍ Development (Ideas)
- ✍ Organization
- ✍ Language Use  
(Word Choice & Sentence Fluency)
- ✍ Mechanics and Conventions

With teacher guidance and support, students have the information, tools and motivation to REVISE! This is the most important aspects of MY Access and one reason students are inspired to improve!

## How does MY Access benefit students?

Students...

- ✍ write more frequently;
- ✍ receive timely feedback with suggestions for improvement;
- ✍ are motivated to improve their writing scores;
- ✍ revise without complaint;
- ✍ actually look forward to writing;
- ✍ improve their keyboarding skills;
- ✍ develop self assessment skills guided by electronic and teacher feedback

## Are MY Access scores accurate?

Arcadia Unified School District believes the MY Access IntelliMetric Essay Scoring System is another tool to support student writing. It does not replace teachers who continue to provide writing instruction and descriptive feedback to students.

Scores are provided on a scale from 1-6 with scores rounded to the nearest tenth. As students make meaningful revisions to their work, their scores reflect their improvement.

Teachers combine a variety of data to plan lessons, provide targeted instruction and support students. This includes MY Access scoring, teacher scoring, credit for engaging in the writing process and evidence of improvement.

