

JENNIFER SERRAVALLO



With **300**
strategies

Updated with
new charts

The

Writing Strategies Book

YOUR **EVERYTHING GUIDE** TO
DEVELOPING SKILLED WRITERS


Heinemann
DEDICATED TO TEACHERS™

Heinemann

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Offices and agents throughout the world

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Credits continue on page 410.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Serravallo, Jennifer, author.

Title: The writing strategies book : your everything guide to developing skilled writers / Jennifer Serravallo.

Description: Portsmouth, NH : Heinemann, 2017. | Includes bibliographical references.

Identifiers: LCCN 2016040461 | ISBN 9780325078229

Subjects: LCSH: English language—Composition and exercises—Study and teaching (Elementary) | Creative writing (Elementary education) | Language arts (Elementary)

Classification: LCC LB1576 .S343426 2017 | DDC 372.62/3—dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2016040461>

Editors: Zoë Ryder White and Katie Wood Ray

Production: Victoria Merecki

Cover and interior designs: Suzanne Heiser

Typesetter: Gina Poirier, Gina Poirier Design

Manufacturing: Steve Bernier

Printed in the United States of America on acid-free paper

14 15 16 17 18 VP 27 26 25 24 23 PO 4500869875

3.38 Start with an Outlandish Claim

Strategy Start a notebook entry with a strong claim. Feel free to be outlandish, and use strong words and phrases such as *always*, *no one*, *everyone*, *never*, or *for sure*. Use that claim as a springboard to start freewriting, and see where your pencil takes you!

Teaching Tip To aid in freewriting, you may remind students of sentence starters that help to keep conversation going, and ask them to use the sentence starters to bridge between one idea and another on the page. Phrases such as “I’m not sure, but maybe . . .” or “On the other hand . . .” or “Some people think . . . But I think . . .”

Prompts

- Make that claim stronger—use a word like *everyone*, *for sure*, *never*.
- It’s OK if you don’t believe it 100 percent. Start with the claim and see where it takes you.
- Start freewriting.
- Write, “On the other hand . . .” and explore where that takes you.
- Try to write without judging yourself. Just keep your pen moving.

Start with an

Outlandish Claim

1 Start with a strong claim.

Instead of demanding kids go to bed by 8pm, kids should stay up as late as they want.



2 Use strong words or phrases: always, no one, everyone, never

Kids are always sent to bed early with too much energy. Kids should be able to choose their bed time.

3 Use the claim as a springboard and freewrite.

My mom sends me to bed at 8 pm, but I’m not tired. I try to fall asleep, but I have too much energy . . .

Tiffany Miller

Who is this for?

LEVELS

4–8

GENRES / TEXT TYPES

opinion/persuasive,
memoir



PROCESS

generating and
collecting



Hat Tip: *The Journey Is Everything: Teaching Essays That Students Want to Write for People Who Want to Read Them*
(Bomer 2016)