



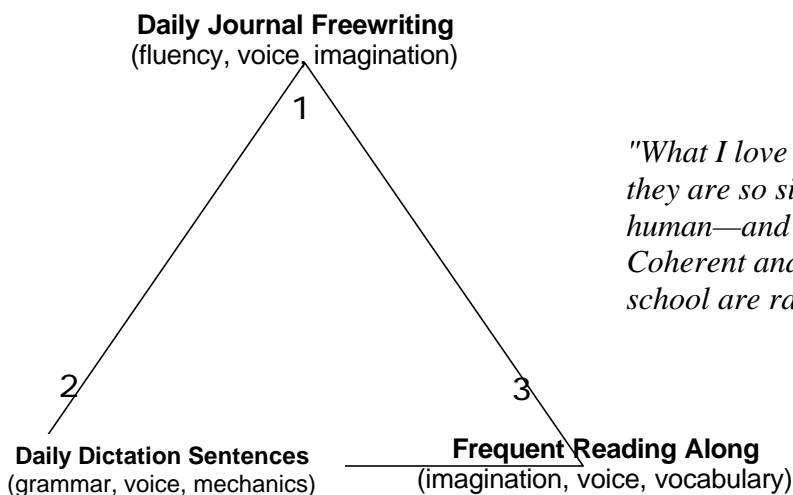
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Performance English: The Golden Triangle

The *Performance English* program has demonstrated that to write fluently students must write significant amounts daily; to write correctly they must learn the conventions of grammar, punctuation, and spelling; and to write imaginatively they must read imaginative literature. The *Performance English* "Golden Triangle" of daily journal writing, daily dictation sentence study, and frequent reading along in class prepares students to read and write effectively throughout their lives.

A Coherent and Unified English Program

The solidity of the *Performance English* program resides within the continuity of the "Golden Triangle." For over a decade, *Performance English* students in grades 6–12 have produced daily journal freewriting, analyzed the grammar of dictation sentences, and shared the fun of class read-alongs. *Performance English* has proven to be especially effective with students in heterogeneous class groupings: journal freewriting encourages all students to draw on their experience while building greater language fluency; group discussion of daily dictation sentences promotes peer coaching as students learn the mechanics of grammar; class read-alongs expand vocabulary, improve reading comprehension, and build class morale through spirited literary ventures.



"What I love about these three practices is that they are so simple, so easy to use, and so human—and so pleasing for students too. Coherent and unified English programs in a school are rare."
—Peter Elbow

In addition to accommodating a wide range of student ability levels, the *Performance English* program is equally effective in supporting a diversity of teaching styles. Some teachers pride themselves on inventive daily journal topics while others enjoy brainstorming suggestions with their class. Feedback on student journals can come from the teacher, from fellow students, or

from both. A teacher can easily alter the recommended daily dictation sentence to reflect current events. And the teacher's favorite books usually work best as class read-alongs. The structure of the "Golden Triangle" combined with the flexibility of teacher implementation encourages creativity in teachers and students alike.

Curriculum Materials for *Performance English: The Golden Triangle*

Teacher Materials

- The Journal Freewriting Handbook
- The Read-Along Handbook
- The Dictation Sentence Handbook

Student Materials

- Suspense Theater; Middle School Series, Book 1
- The Comedy Hour; Middle School Series, Book 2
- Going Solo; Middle School Series, Book 3
- Growing Up Local; High School Series, Book 2
- Literature of the Americas; High School Series, Book 3