

Shadowing Writing

Young students or students that struggle with writing words can have teachers model how they should write. Students would take copies of a sample that a teacher wrote and use a highlighter to trace the words. This help students develop their writing and reading of words. As students improve they can use worksheets with only lines to keep the words in-between of.

How to use

1. Modeling Writing

The teacher reviews the sounds of letters and clearly sounds out the words that the students will be writing. Providing visual on a chalk board or smart board will allow for the students to see the steps for writing words including the spacing. Teaching writes the words and verbally reads as they are writing, so that the students can make connections on how to write and how the words sound.

2. Highlighting

Students then take what has been modeled by the teacher and follow the same steps. As they are sounding out what is on their worksheet they are highlighting the words. (Note: struggling students may need additional time).

3. Highlighting Verbal Answers

Students that struggle to put their answers of questions on paper may have an opportunity to verbally answer and have the teacher help them with modeling how to write the answer on paper. This allows for the teacher to know that the student is understanding the questions and is able to answer them, but guide them in putting the answer in writing.

When to use

Some of the opportunities when using Shadowing Writing would be:

- Students needing to practice on hand writing
- When students struggle to write words
- Students needing to associate oral and written words
- When students need help with reading
- Evaluating which students are struggling

Variations

Play-Doh Shadowing

Similar to shadowing with pencil and paper students can use play-doh to make the shapes of letter in words. This provides a chance for studentns to be creative and using their hands to mold the words. Many students would enjoy the use of play-doh and can be kept engaged. (Note: proper use of play-doh should be reviewed with students.

Alternating Shadowing

In alternating shadowing students would be with a partner and take turns tracing the words that are on their work sheets. Students can help each other with their writing and sound out the letters they are using.