

Fundamentals in the Sentence Writing Strategy Implementation **Academic Support Class Implementation Summary**

Program Overview

Over the course of an eighteen-week semester, I implemented a Fundamental in the Sentence Writing Strategy with a group of seven students in my Academic Support Class, all of whom have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). The students ranged from 10th to 12th grade. Instruction took place once a week, though there were occasional weeks when sessions had to be missed due to school closures.

Student Progress and Challenges

At the beginning of the program, students grasped foundational concepts with ease. However, around lessons four and five, they began to encounter difficulties, particularly when distinguishing between infinitives and prepositional phrases within the same sentence. Identifying these structures independently was manageable, but when both appeared in a sentence—especially with the use of the word *to*—students struggled to determine whether the following word was a noun or a verb.

Additionally, as sentence complexity increased, the pace of instruction had to be adjusted. While students demonstrated confidence in identifying sentence structures with a single subject and verb (SV), they found more complex structures—such as sentences with compound subjects (SSV), compound verbs (SVV), and compound subjects and verbs (SSVV)—more challenging. Despite these difficulties, the lessons had a positive impact on their ability to recognize sentence components and identify the necessary elements for constructing complete sentences.

Impact and Growth

By the end of the semester, students showed measurable growth in their ability to identify parts of speech. Their understanding of sentence structure improved, and they became more confident in analyzing the grammatical components of a sentence. Seeing their progress in these foundational skills was a rewarding experience.

Coaching Experience

Throughout this process, I had the privilege of working with Debbie Higginbotham, who provided exceptional coaching and guidance. Our professional development sessions were invaluable in learning how to effectively implement Fundamentals in the Sentence Writing Strategy. However, I particularly appreciated our one-on-one coaching sessions, where I had the opportunity to discuss my implementation, receive constructive feedback, and refine my approach. Her insights and support were instrumental in enhancing my effectiveness as an instructor.

Conclusion

Overall, this experience was both challenging and rewarding. The structured approach helped students develop a stronger grasp of grammar and sentence structure, while the coaching support allowed me to continuously improve my instructional methods. Moving forward, I will continue to build on these strategies to further support my students' learning and language development.