

Write Source[®]
**Program Effectiveness:
Garnet Valley Middle School
Glen Mills, PA**



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Garnet Valley Middle School Glen Mills, PA

Garnet Valley Middle School piloted *Write Source* in the seventh grade during the 2005-2006 school year. Students' writing proficiency was assessed using essays written in response to persuasive writing prompts in fall and winter to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and track students' growth.

Each of the students' essays were evaluated by two different graders using the Pennsylvania Writing Assessment Holistic Scoring Guide (a scale of 1-6) and the two scores were averaged. Students who score a 4 or higher were considered competent.

Why Write Source?

Barbara Giorgio, supervisor of language arts and staff development at the Garnet Valley School District, explained, "As our district is now in our fourth year of a staff development focus on differentiated instruction, the strategies for differentiating lessons in the new edition of *Write Source* were very appealing for us. We also established writing across the curriculum as a district goal for all teachers each year, and the enhanced content writing models offered substantial and practical tools for meeting this goal.

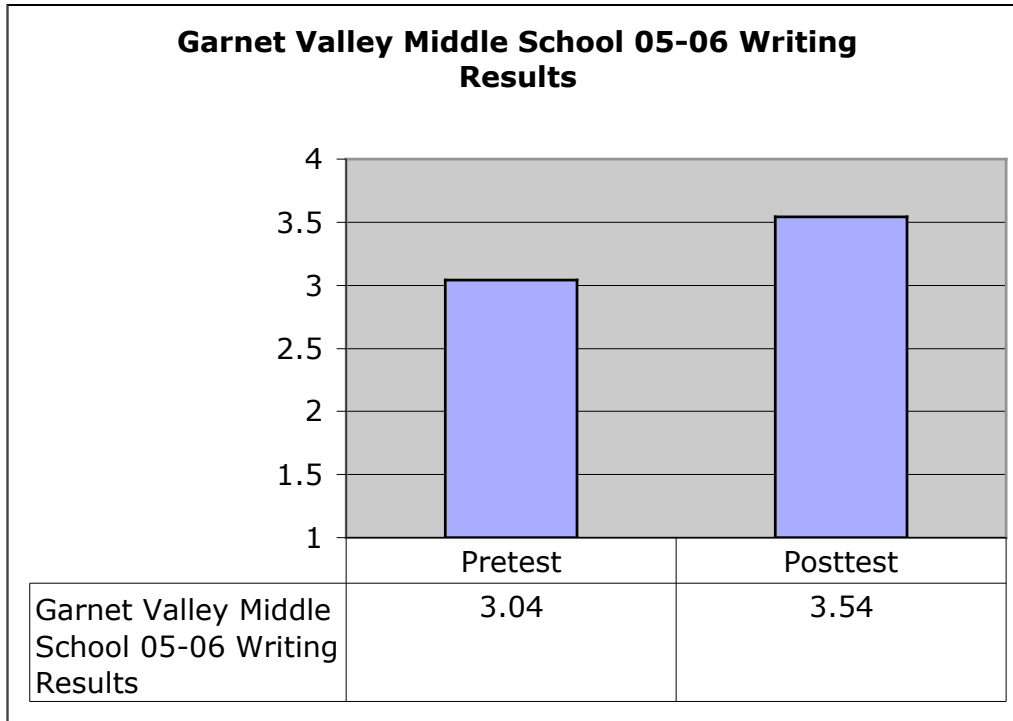
Our pilot was conducted across the content areas, with teams of teachers in each grade of a middle school using the books with their students. Though content teachers are not naturally as comfortable with the writing handbook approach as are teachers of language arts, the interaction among teachers provided support, as did our Great Source representative. All teachers used the book with students and all responded positively to the focus on writing that the materials promoted."

Student Demographics

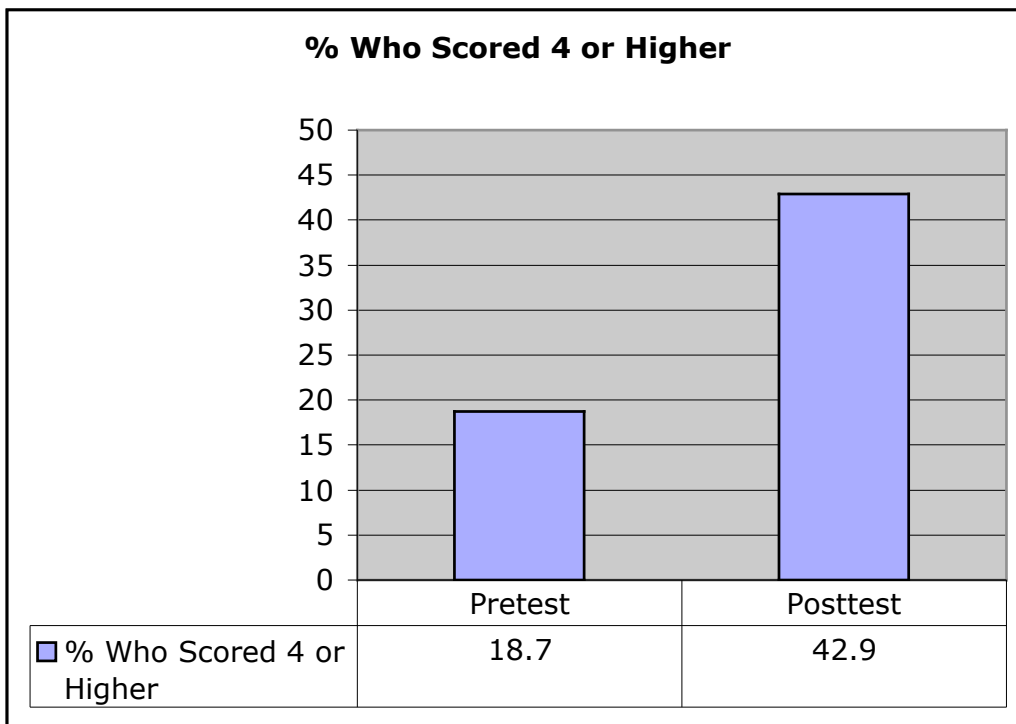
There are 1,100 students enrolled at the Garnet Valley Middle School of which 1% are eligible for free / reduced price lunch. The population of the Garnet Valley School District is comprised of 4% Asian; 1% African American, and 94% Caucasian (Market Data Retrieval, (2005). MDR's Pennsylvania School Directory. Shelton, CT: author.).

Results

60.3% of students showed improvement in their writing scores from pretest to posttest. On average, students' scores increased by a mean of .5 from pretest to posttest, which is statistically significant increase on the 95% confidence interval (see page 2).



The percentage of students who scored 4 (competent) or better increased from 18.7% to 42.9% from pretest to posttest.



Conclusion

Results indicate that *Write Source* had a positive impact on students' writing proficiency, with an increase of 24.2 percentage points in the percent of students who scored competent or better.

Barbara Giorgio suggests this reason for the success of *Write Source* at Garnet Valley Middle School, "*Write Source* provides the students with a 'kid-friendly' means of acquiring the information and skills they need to successfully complete the writing process in all content areas. It guides them as a class or independently through the hurdles of research mechanics and the conventions of writing. It supports the teaching of writing using the methods endorsed by the National Writing Project. It will continue to be a primary resource for our writing program."