

Writing With Sharon Watson FAQ about Schedule / Pacing

Q: *I've heard I can use *The Power in Your Hands* for more than one year. Is this true?*

A: Absolutely. Here's how:

1. When public and private schools give a writing assignment, the students do their work at home and still have classes during the day. This schedule is not necessary in homeschools. You can assign the essay at the end of the chapter and then follow the suggested writing schedule. The daily tasks in the schedule can be done during your normal writing-class time. The book will last for two years with this schedule, and your student won't feel hurried. (And neither will you!)
2. The Teacher's Guide contains a fun program called 14-Minute Writing Surges. These writing prompts cover fiction and nonfiction writing for the school year. You can use this program for a whole year before or after you use *The Power in Your Hands*, or you can take a break from the textbook for a few days or weeks by using the Writing Surges. It's a fun way for your student to write on an interesting topic without being evaluated on everything he or she writes.
3. If you combine numbers 1 and 2, you can use *The Power in Your Hands* for three years. This will give your teens a thorough knowledge of the material at a leisurely pace.
4. Many parents have successfully used another option. They work through the first 13 chapters in the first year, stopping for the year after writing the position paper, and finish the course the next year. This seems to be a sensible pace for most families.

Q: *We don't have two years. My student is a senior. How can I use *The Power in Your Hands*?*

A: Seniors definitely should know some basics about writing before being sent into the world. I suggest completing the following chapters in *The Power in Your Hands* as a bare minimum for your senior:

Chapters 1-4
Chapters 9-10
Chapters 11-13
Chapters 17-19
Chapter 20
Chapter 23

These will give your student a wonderful foundation for writing. If you have time, you can add in other chapters of interest to your student.

If your child does only the chapters listed above, he or she will want to be sure to read through the other ones, especially the Grammar Factoids and the Toolbox portions that usually appear in the beginnings of the chapters. These portions are important to writing and are referred to in later chapters and on the checklists that correspond to the assignments.