Using CO:Writer Universal with the DARE Writing Strategy

Persuasive Writing with the DARE Writing Strategy and the CO:Writer Universal App

CO:Writer Universal is a technology app with word prediction, talking word processor, and customizable vocabulary banks. The DARE writing strategy is used frequently with the SRSD model by Graham and Harris. Teacher Josh Stock shows how his middle school students take the brainstorming STOP strategy to write an essay using DARE within the CO:Writer app.

The DARE Strategy has four elements: **D**evelop a Claim, **A**dd Supporting Ideas, **R**eject the Other Side, **E**nd with a Conclusion.

The first step in DARE is to **develop a claim**. The claim is a clear topic sentence of which side of an argument the student chooses. The claim is the foundation of the essay.

The A in DARE reminds students to **add supporting ideas** or details. These ideas were generated in a list from the STOP strategy. The ideas must always link back directly to the claim.

R means to **reject the other side**, by showing evidence that the opposing argument is wrong. Teacher Josh Stock provides a sentence structure, "Some people say _____. However, _____" to help his students when they first start out opposing and refuting the other side of an argument.

End with a conclusion means to end with writing a sentence that restates the claim or, to go further, has a call-to-action. The student tells the reader what to do next.

After students have done the DARE analysis, then they are ready to write. Teachers may have them simply write a paragraph or for more advanced writing, a 5-paragraph essay with each of the supporting ideas within their own paragraph. Writing within CO:Writer gives the students access to word prediction, a talking word processor, and vocabulary word banks.

DARE gives students a great structure for their persuasive writing within CO:Writer Universal.

Strategies for Effective Writing: STOP + DARE

Persuasive Planning and Writing with STOP + DARE

STEP 1. STOP

Suspend judgment. Consider both sides of an issue before taking a position.

Take a side. Write down ideas for both sides.

Organize ideas. Select ideas on the "for" or "against" side that best support your position.

Plan more and say more as you write. Continue planning while writing. Add more ideas.

+

STEP 2. DARE

Develop your topic/thesis sentence.

Add supporting ideas.

Reject arguments for the other side.

End with a strong conclusion.

The STOP + DARE Strategy provides a general framework for planning, reflecting, and writing a persuasive essay that addresses both sides of an issue.

Step 1. Introduce the mnemonic for the two-part STOP + DARE strategy.

- Model it using think aloud.
- Discuss the characteristics of a strong argument/persuasive essay.

Step 2. Provide a sample argument essay for students to read. Discuss.

- Look for evidence of the STOP + DARE strategy in the example. Discuss components of the essay.

Step 3. Provide an example of an argument prompt for students to practice using the STOP + DARE Strategy.

- Analyze and discuss student essays for the STOP + DARE Strategy.

Step 4. Students independently write an argument essay based on the given prompt utilizing STOP + DARE.

Argument Planning and Writing Strategy
STOP and DARE

STEP 1. Suspend judgment.
Consider both sides of an issue before taking a position.

STEP 2. Take a side.
Write down ideas for both sides.

STEP 3. Organize ideas.
Select ideas on the "for" or "against" side that best support your position.

STEP 4. Plan more and say more as you write.
Continue planning while writing. Add more ideas.

Develop your topic/thesis sentence.

Add supporting ideas.

Reject arguments for the other side.

End with a strong conclusion.

STOP + D.A.R.E. The STOP & DARE Strategy provides a general framework for planning, reflecting, and writing an argument essay that addresses both sides of an issue.

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- **Model it using think aloud.**
- **Discuss the characteristics of a strong argument essay.**

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- **Look for evidence of the STOP + DARE strategy in the example. Discuss components of the essay.**

Step 3. Provide an example of an argument prompt for students to practice using the STOP + DARE Strategy.

- **Analyze and discuss student essays for the STOP + DARE Strategy.**

Step 4. Students independently write an argument essay based on the given prompt utilizing STOP + DARE.

Co:Writer Universal Quick Start

What is Co:Writer Universal?
Co:Writer Universal is a set of writing tools that aides with phonetic spelling, grammar, and topic-related vocabulary. The tools can be used with many different computing devices in a consistent and reliable way.

Why do I need to login to use Co:Writer Universal?
Co:Writer Universal will automatically save display settings and topic vocabulary anywhere you use Co:Writer to write. In addition, if you are writing within an iOS device or Google Chrome Applications, Co:Writer will save your document automatically.

Options and Settings:
Co:Writer allows you adjust speech and display options. It will also allow you to supply topic specific vocabulary as well as personal words like family and pet names.

Speech Options:
Co:Writer has tools available to adjust voice, volume, pitch and rate for text to speech. These settings are device specific.

Word Prediction Options:
You can now adjust font, background and foreground colors, size and number of guesses for prediction box. Co:Writer also allows you to adjust the font size, background and foreground colors for writing environments within the iOS and Google Apps.

Co:Writer writing environment::
When writing with Co:Writer within the Chrome or iOS applications, your writings will be saved automatically, and can be accessed from any Co:Writer enabled device with an internet connection.

Home Page:

🗑 Click on trash to select writings to be removed.

↗ Click on export to export to places like Dropbox or Google Drive.

New Click on the word "New" to create a new writing. Otherwise, click on a writing you have already started to continue to write.

Writing Page:

🏠 Home is used to return to the home page.

🔊 Speak selected text related to cursor placement.

📚 Specify Vocabulary Dictionaries and Topics.

🖼 Insert pictures with the camera, from your computer, or from personal online picture sites.

⚙ Adjust prediction and speech settings.

↗ Export a selected document to places like Dropbox and Google. Use Export to Print or Copy too.

💭 Turn on/off prediction window.

A Document formatting options.

⊕ Create a new document with the same dictionary settings.

Technology Summary

STOP

Suspend judgment, Brainstorm ideas for and against the topic.

_____ (For)	_____ (Against)
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.
7.	7.

Take a side. Place a "=" at the top of the box that shows the side you will take.

Organize ideas. Decide which ideas are strong and which ideas you can dispute.

Plan more as you write. Remember to use all four essay parts (DARE) and continue planning.

Now write your essay on another piece of paper.

STOP

Your name:_____

Article title:_____

Suspend judgment, then brainstorm ideas for and against the topic. (Use **Inspiration Maps.**)

_____ PRO (For)	_____ CON (Against)
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

Take a side. Place a "+" at the top of the box that shows the side you will take.

Organize ideas. Decide which 3 ideas are strongest and which ideas you can dispute.

Plan more as you write. Remember to use all four essay parts (DARE) and continue planning.

DARE
_____

Develop your topic sentence

Add supporting details

Reject 1 argument – or nod to the opposition

End with a concluding sentence

Now, write your paragraph in **CoWriter Universal**.