

Step 2: Sizzling Starts

The Sizzling Transformation Challenge

Track Your Success is the perfect assessment tool to help you monitor and report on the improvement in your students' writing. This mini version is focused specifically on Step 2: Sizzling Starts and will give you a taster of how easy it is to transform students' writing using the Seven Steps.

Use the instructions and resources below to run Track Your Success with Step 2: Sizzling Starts in your classroom.

We're sure you'll see some amazing outcomes!

(Join [Teacher Hub](#) to unlock Track Your Success for all Seven Steps.)

Start your journey to writing success

Check out your guide to implementing [Step 2: Sizzling Starts](#).

1. Learn the theory

Watch Jen McVeity, creator of the Seven Steps, explain the key concepts behind Step 2: Sizzling Starts in the short [theory video](#). Then start planning your lessons using the free resources (but don't share with your students just yet).

2. Pre-test your students' writing

Before you start teaching Sizzling Starts, pre-test your students asking them to write the start of a story based on one of the following topics:

The big secret

My teacher's a monster!

A day at the zoo

We recommend giving your students 5 minutes thinking time and 5 minutes to write their opening paragraph. You may want to increase the writing time for beginner writers.

Use this [test paper](#) – it includes a quick survey to measure how your students feel about their writing. This can be used to monitor whether their levels of confidence and enjoyment are also improving.

Mark students' work using this Step 2: Sizzling Starts rubric and the marking sheet provided.

This will give you an insight into your students' current writing abilities.

Step 2: Sizzling Starts

Beginner	0–2 marks	The opening paragraph fails to engage the reader immediately.
Intermediate	3–5 marks	The opening paragraph is engaging and orients the reader.
Advanced	6–7 marks	The opening paragraph is well-developed and immediately engages the reader's interest, making them want to read more.

3. Implement Sizzling Starts in your classroom

Now for the fun part – [teaching](#) and [applying](#) Step 2: Sizzling Starts. Your students are going to love them! We recommend teaching this Step over 1–2 weeks.

4. Post-test your students' writing

Once students have mastered Step 2: Sizzling Starts, post-test your students (using the [test paper](#) provided) to measure the improvement in their narrative writing skills as well as their level of confidence and enjoyment. Choose the same topic as before or one of similar difficulty level and mirror the pre-test conditions as closely as possible.

Mark students' work using the same rubric and marking sheet as before and compare the results.

5. Celebrate your students' writing success!

Reward your students with this [Step 2: Sizzling Starts certificate](#).

Share your success with your class, with your wider school community and with us! We would love to hear how you went with the Sizzling Starts Transformation Challenge.

Send us an email: inspiration@sevenstepswriting.com or share on Facebook or Instagram and tag us @SevenStepsWriting.



For additional support with tracking and reporting on your students' progress, take a look at the 'Track Your Success' resources on *Teacher Hub* – sign up for a Teacher Hub Subscription or try it for [free for 14 days!](#)

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Marking Sheet

Student name:

Topic: Date:

Marking rubric

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Beginner	0–2 marks	The opening paragraph fails to engage the reader immediately.
Intermediate	3–5 marks	The opening paragraph is engaging and orients the reader.
Advanced	6–7 marks	The opening paragraph is well-developed and immediately engages the reader’s interest, making them want to read more.

Pre-test

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Beginner	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Advanced
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Comment:

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Post-test

Step 2: Sizzling Starts

Beginner	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Advanced
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