

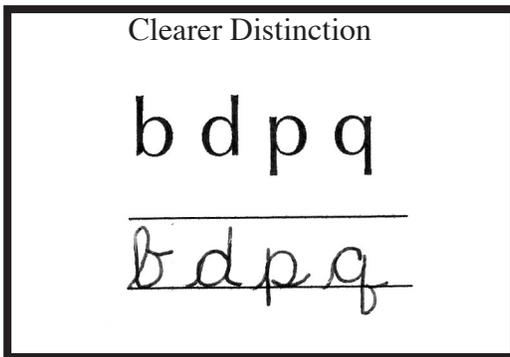
Penmanship Tips

Teach Lower Case Letters First

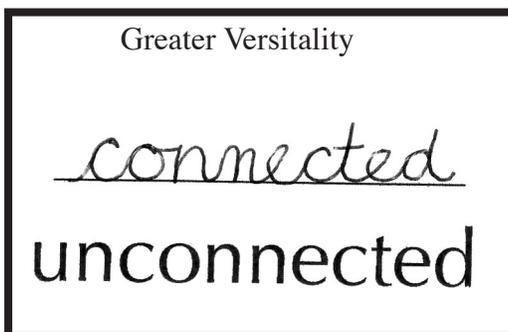
- Lower case letters far outnumber capitals on a printed page.
- Capitals are mainly used at the beginning of a sentence and for proper names.
- Teach capitals only as needed. Begin with the first letter of a student's name.

Teach Cursive from the Beginning

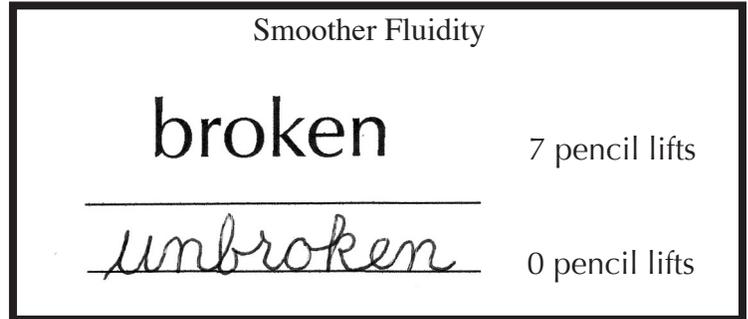
- Until the 20th century English students around the world learned cursive for initial penmanship. See SWR pages 35-36.
- The abrupt shift to manuscript first has not produced improved language learning.
- Cursive helps curb reversals.



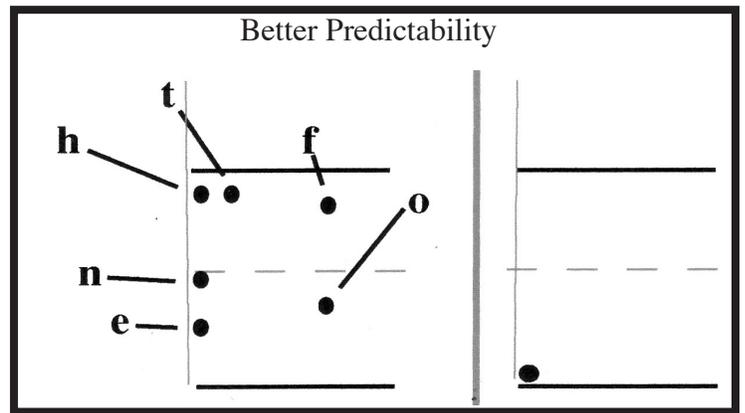
- Students taught “connected writing” can read both book face and cursive. Students only taught manuscript cannot. See SWR pp. 39-40.



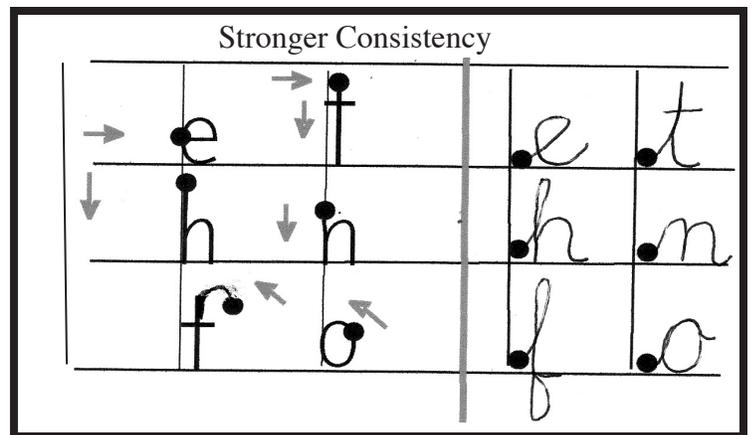
- Cursive requires fewer stops and starts to write a word.



- All cursive letters start at the same point (at the base line). Manuscript letters start at six different starting points.



- Cursive eliminates confusion with directionality. All letters go from the base line up. Manuscript letters move in three different directions: straight to the **right**, curving **left** and up, or straight **down**.



You don't have to start with cursive to successfully teach SWR. We believe that, if you do, you will be glad you did.