After teaching developmental writing to deaf students for many years, Sue Livingston found that students who can read and analyze written texts become better writers. They achieve their improvement by reading, then writing about what they have read. Livingston has embodied her successful approach in Working Text: Teaching Deaf and Second-Language Students to Be Better Writers.

In this straightforward instructional book, Livingston first explains what is involved and why her methods work with deaf students, second-language students, and other students who need to improve their writing ability. Upon this foundation, Working Text delineates how to teach students to write through reading and writing exercises. These exercises have been carefully crafted using the X-Word Grammar approach to help students discover common language constructions that they can apply to their own writing. As the students progress, their understanding of the elements of good writing will grow.