

AMI Lessons
6th Grade Keyboarding
Mrs. Sorrels

Day 1: Think about your dream job. Write a paragraph about how you think keyboarding would be used in that career. How would knowing how to type fast and accurately benefit you in that career?

Day 2: Write a paragraph about what you remember learning in your intermediate school typing/computer class last year. (Example: home row keys, posture, etc...)

Day 3: Write a paragraph about the importance of “not looking at your hands” while typing. Why do you think that would make you faster if you could master that skill? Why would it slow you down if you couldn’t master it?

Day 4: Summarize this article on paper.

Why is keyboarding important?

There are many reasons why keyboarding is preferred over the “Hunt-and-peck” method of using a computer. Touch typing enhances accuracy as you harness muscle memory in the fingers to assist with spelling. So what do we mean by muscle memory?

Once you have mastered the fingering on the keyboard, and consistently use the same finger for a letter, you automatically remember where the finger goes without conscious thought.

If you ask someone who’s been typing for years, “Where is the letter b?” or any other letter of your choice, they may have difficulty remembering because this is a skill they have internalized so well. The conscious brain will be slower at answering the question than the finger.

Through sufficient repetition, the fingers reach automatically for individual keys when they are needed. You don’t have to consciously think about where the fingers go.

Touch typing makes you faster. This, in turn, means you will be more productive, as it takes you less time to do tasks so you can take on more work or assignments, or alternatively spend less time sitting at a computer. Automatizing the process improves the quality of your writing too. It frees up cognitive energy so you focus on the ideas instead of just the language required to articulate them.

Moreover, learning keyboarding improves accuracy and can help with decoding and sight-reading skills for children and adults who struggle with specific learning difficulties. Learn more about the [benefits](#).

Day 5 is on the back of this page.

Day 5: Summarize this article on paper.

Keyboarding at school

While tablets have become important tools in education today, typing on the computer is still a crucial skill for students to learn. Keyboarding means the muscles in the hand are involved in typing; the student feels his or her way through the activity instead of using the eyes as a guide.

[Children](#) will often benefit from studying keyboarding alongside [learning how to read](#). That's because in a multi-sensory course, such as Touch-type Read and Spell, the learning process reinforces phonics. Students hear a word spoken, see the word on the screen and then type it.

This helps them with the [sound-letter mapping](#) required for decoding and spelling. It also reinforces sight-reading skills through repetitive drills of high frequency vocabulary.

In later grades, school assignments become longer and it is often a requirement that written work is typed. Writing on the computer can actually improve a student's skills because the [process becomes more fluent as ideas flow freely](#) through the fingertips and onto the screen.

Mistakes are easier to correct and re-write and working in drafts is more convenient. University students and researchers will benefit from taking electronic notes in class. Even [adults](#) who are returning to school can use touch typing to help develop spelling, [literacy](#) and computer skills. Last but not least, [homework assignments](#), group work and sitting standardized exams are all facilitated.

In fact, computer testing is one reason why keyboarding should be considered an essential skill for all students to learn at school. The faster a student can type, the more time they can devote to improving the [quality of their response](#) and answering the rest of the exam's questions.