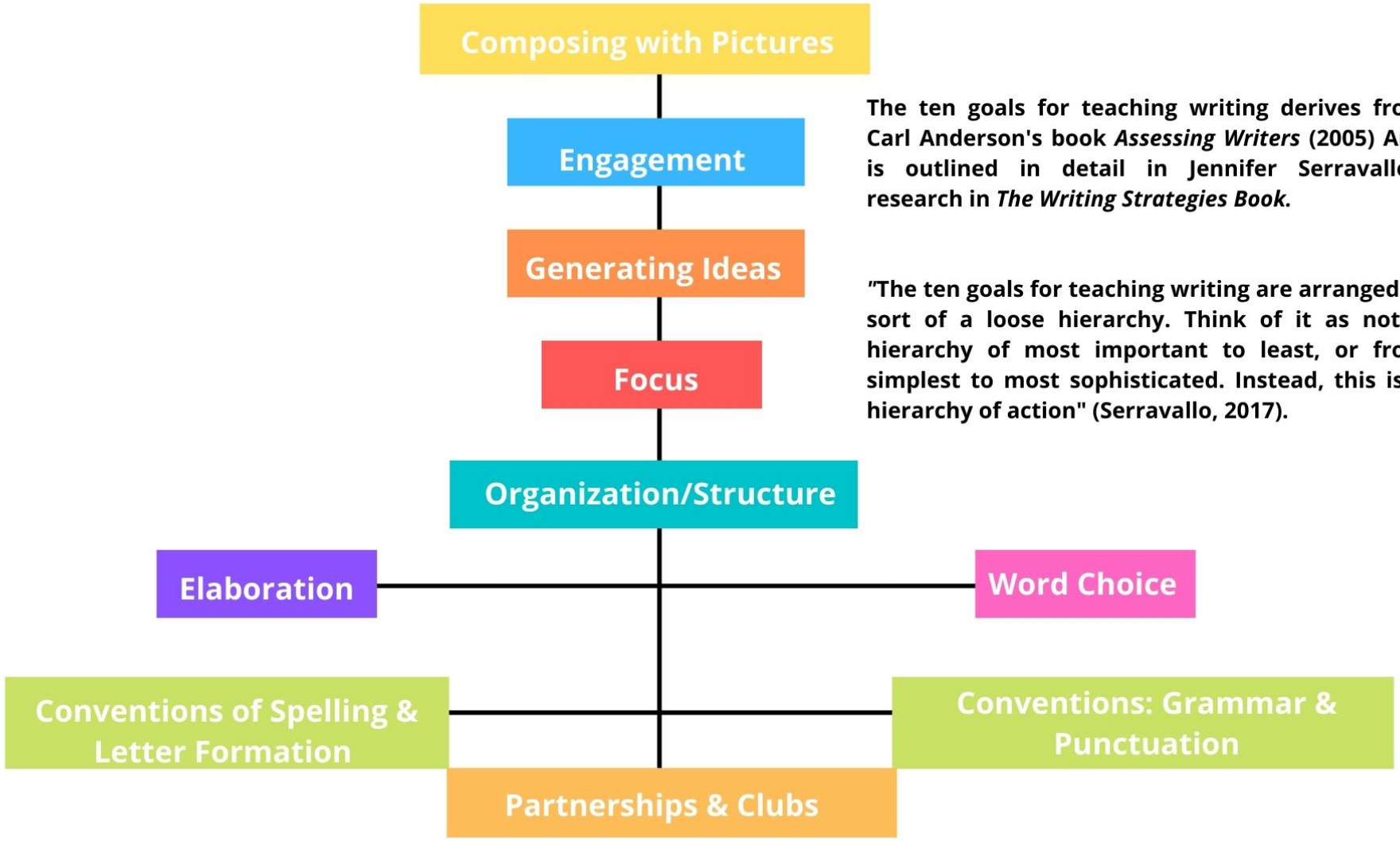
Writing

Teacher Use:

Writing involves a wide range of skills from spelling to grammar, word choice, sentence structure, critical thinking, generating ideas, organizing information, and understanding different types of writing. Given the skills and executive functioning processes involved in writing, children need quality writing instruction to gradually improve their skills over time. This process is of the utmost importance because writing is a lifelong skill students will need to succeed early in school, in college and in their career.

DETERMINING WHERE TO START:

A HIERARCHY OF POSSIBLE WRITING GOALS



The ten goals for teaching writing derives from Carl Anderson's book *Assessing Writers* (2005) And is outlined in detail in Jennifer Serravallo's research in *The Writing Strategies Book.*

"The ten goals for teaching writing are arranged in sort of a loose hierarchy. Think of it as not a hierarchy of most important to least, or from simplest to most sophisticated. Instead, this is a hierarchy of action" (Serravallo, 2017).



Writing



Writing Checklist:

☐ **Does the paragraph, essay or story achieve my goal?** (Does it inform the reader about a topic, explain something, persuade the reader to do something, tell an entertaining story, summarize something, etc.?)

☐ **Does the paragraph, essay, or story have enough detail?** (Does it include examples, opinions, facts, details, descriptions?)

☐ **Is the paragraph, essay or story well organized for the reader?** (Does it start with a topic sentence/main point, does it have supporting details, does it have a concluding sentence, does it include transitional words?)

☐ **Does the paragraph, essay or story have strong or appropriate word choice?** (Are descriptive words included, do the sentences make sense?)

☐ **Does the paragraph, essay or story have accurate spelling, punctuation and capitalization?** (Does it start sentences with a capital letter; does each sentence have ending punctuation; are all the words spelled correctly; are there commas, conjunctions, semicolons to link complex/compound sentences?)

Does the paragraph, essay or story have a voice? (Does the writing have a mood, tone and style?)