

COLLINS WRITING PROGRAM SPECIALTY INSTITUTE

How to Painlessly Teach Essential Writing Conventions (grades 2-12)

For teachers in all subject areas, department heads, principals, supervisors, curriculum committee members, and special educators.

With today's emphasis on "formal language," teachers are asking themselves familiar questions with even greater urgency:

1. At what grade should students be expected to capitalize first words of sentences consistently, punctuate dialogue correctly, be aware of subject-verb agreement, or use an ellipsis properly in a quote?
2. How do I keep from teaching the same conventions over and over?
3. How do I make my students more responsible for self-editing?
4. Should students be allowed to use a "cheat sheet" when editing their work?

This institute focuses on these and other questions that have frustrated teachers for decades. Come to this fast-paced, interactive workshop to discover what the "priority conventions" are and ways to address them in your writing assignments. Learn about using focus correction Areas (FCAs) to find the right balance for emphasizing content, organization, style, and conventions. Also learn how to use *Check Mate*, a simple, easy-to-use student reference guide for the most frequently used and tested writing conventions.

PARTICIPANTS WILL . . .

- Learn what the essential conventions of formal language are and how to teach them
- Become familiar with The Top Twenty (the most common writing mistakes made by college freshmen) and why they matter to elementary, middle, and high school teachers
- Learn to develop the academic vocabulary students need to talk about writing conventions
- Discover how to help students master conventions through meaningful practice and application to authentic writing tasks
- Know how to embed writing, along with essential conventions, throughout the curriculum
- Learn how to use high-priority conventions as the "third FCA"
- Begin to prepare students for the language arts challenges of standardized assessment tests.

Contact us for more information.



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