



Collins Education Associates

The Collins Writing Program

A Writing Across the Curriculum Program with Over 35 Years of Proven Results

The Collins Writing Exchange

January 23, 2025 Issue #80



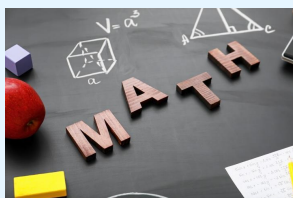
What About "The Other Three?"

As we explored **last month**, writing should be included in all areas of academic programming in order to make lasting strides in thinking, learning, and literacy in all content areas. Many teachers, students, and parents see writing as a responsibility that mainly belongs in the ELA classroom. But, they also believe that writing is a core skill necessary for real world success in all fields.

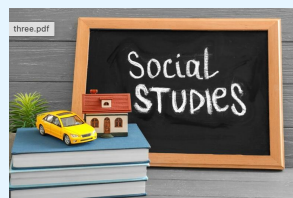
English/Language Arts is one of the four foundational pillars of what have come to be known as the Core Areas. In this issue, we are bringing the other three pillars—social studies, science and math—into focus as we continue to spread the message that writing should be used across the curriculum. Read on to see how to create and use tasks that organically meet the three Rs of our framework--**real**, **relevant**, and **relatable** writing--in "the other three" core areas.

Social Studies, Science, and Math Quickwrites

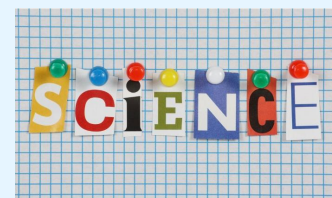
Quickwrites are a cornerstone of our framework and are perfect for "the other three" core academic realms. They can be used as an engaging class starter, a strategy to encourage critical thinking, a tool for summarizing learning, an efficient device to assess understanding, or a risk-free vehicle for students to ask questions or clear up misconceptions. Below are just a few examples of prompts that can be used in "the other three." They are either **Type Ones** (brainstorming, activating prior knowledge) or **Type Twos** (checking or reinforcing understanding) depending on where students are in the learning process. To keep quickwrites *quick*, remember to set a time limit for students to respond, usually about 2 to 5 minutes.



Look at this series of



Name three explorers



How do you know if

numbers. Describe the pattern, identify what number would come next, and explain how you know.

What is the difference, in your own words, between addition and subtraction?

and give two details about each.

What is the difference between the popular vote and the electoral college? Explain in 4 lines.

something is living? Give two ways and two examples.

Explain one mistake you should warn other students about when they do the lab we just completed.

Click Below for a Complete List of Prompts for "The Other Three."

Quickwrites in the Core Content Areas



Type Threes for "The Other Three"

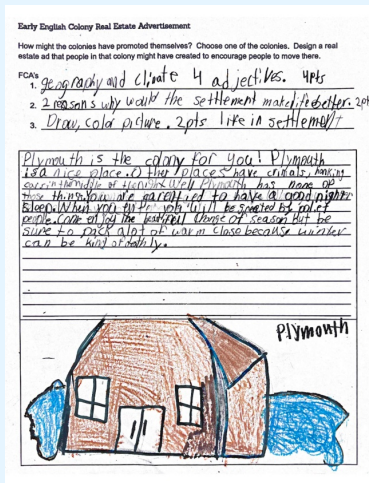
Looking for some slightly more in-depth assignments for your content area? Below are some writing ideas that meet the three Rs of our framework yet are NOT traditional essays.

Posters, bumper stickers, "show your work" T-charts, flashcards, and study guides can all be Type Three assignments when we use FCAs to provide students with clear success criteria.

See these and other Type Three ideas here.

These out-of-the-box assignments are designed for varied grade levels and can be customized for your classroom as needed.

Of course we always have our more traditional, "tried-and-true" Type Three assignments--like compare/contrast, how-to, and summarizing. Find them here.



Thank you to Mrs. L. at Riverside Elementary School in DeGraff, OH, for sharing this Type Three idea with us! Students created real estate ads to showcase their knowledge of the first American settlements. Real, relevant, relatable--and fun!

Have your own Type Three to share? Excited to share the results of trying one of the prompts in this newsletter? We'd love to hear from you!

Email cmcdonough@collinsed.com. If your submission is used in a future issue, you will receive a free writing resource from us!

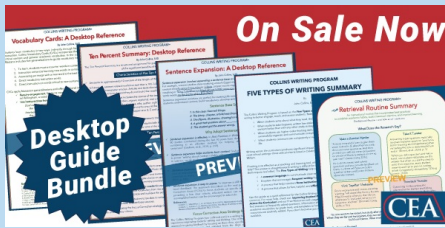


we don't want you to!

When using writing in your content area, you must make sure that it is distinct to, and designed for, your classroom needs and learning goals. Use [this link](#) to see how your writing tasks compare and contrast with those of your ELA colleagues.

Compare and Contrast ELA and Other CONTEXT WRITING		
Writing for Context	English Writing	Other Subject Writing
Writing for Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aspects of writing vary by discipline. Writing is often more complex and more varied than in ELA. Writing is often more complex and more varied than in ELA. Writing is often more complex and more varied than in ELA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing is often more complex and more varied than in ELA. Writing is often more complex and more varied than in ELA. Writing is often more complex and more varied than in ELA.
Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing is often more complex and more varied than in ELA. Writing is often more complex and more varied than in ELA. Writing is often more complex and more varied than in ELA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing is often more complex and more varied than in ELA. Writing is often more complex and more varied than in ELA. Writing is often more complex and more varied than in ELA.
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing is often more complex and more varied than in ELA. Writing is often more complex and more varied than in ELA. Writing is often more complex and more varied than in ELA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing is often more complex and more varied than in ELA. Writing is often more complex and more varied than in ELA. Writing is often more complex and more varied than in ELA.

Materials That Reach Beyond ELA and Support Authentic Writing Across the Curriculum



Desktop Guides

Five laminated guides, five high-leverage strategies... Everything you need to take on the Five Types of Writing, retrieval practice, sentence expansion, summarization, and vocabulary development. Choose one or bundle them all and save!

New Desktop Guides Coming Soon
 ~ Using Writing in Math ~
 ~ Literacy in the CTE Classroom ~



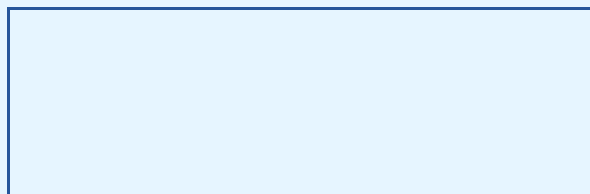
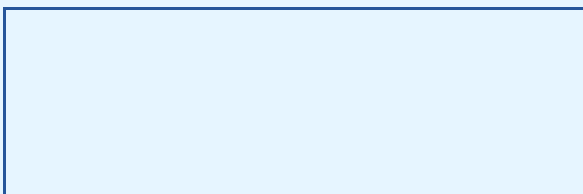
How Did You Get That?

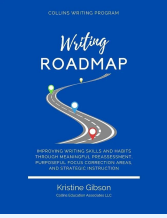
Learn key strategies for improving written responses in math with techniques developed specifically for math teachers in grades 2-10. This approach builds math vocabulary and is designed to improve students' understanding of math concepts and their performance in classrooms. Includes ready-to-use writing assignments such as The Klutz Book of Math, The Math Riddle, Analyze the Data, and more.

[Shop the Online Store Now](#)

How About PD in Your PJs? Learning in Your Living Room? Practice by the Pool?

You can do all of these with Pre-Recorded Offerings at *your* convenience!
 Offered in Collaboration with Central Intermediate Unit 10 in PA

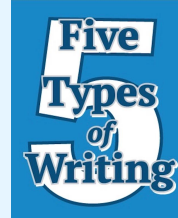




**Writing Roadmap:
Improving Writing Skills and
Habits Through Meaningful
Preassessment,
Purposeful FCAs, and Strategic
Instruction**

*Three one-hour, pre-recorded
video modules
Anytime, Asynchronous Access*

Instructor: Kristine Gibson



**Introduction to the Collins
Writing Program
An At-Your-Own-Pace
Introduction to the
Five Types of Writing**

*Six one-hour, pre-recorded
video modules
Anytime, Asynchronous Access*

Instructor: Dr. John Collins

Public Sessions Near You
(or in your living room!)



Hosted by the Morris-Union Jointure Commission

- Simple Strategies for Building Revising and Editing Skills, Grades 3-10 (2/26/25 Online)
- Making Mechanics Matter: Holding Students Accountable for Your Biggest Writing Pet Peeves, Grades 4-10 (2/26/25 Online)
- Managing and Improving Writing Skills and Habits in the Primary Grades, Grades K-2 (3/7/25 New Jersey)



Hosted by the Regional Professional Development Academy

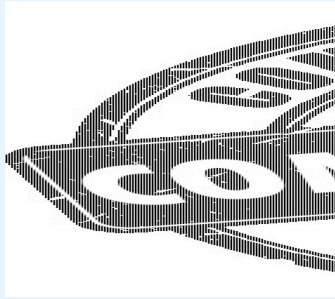
- Activities That Promote Close Reading and Thoughtful Text-Based Response, Grades 3-8 (3/20/25 New Jersey)

**Using WorkKeys to Unlock Skills and
Understanding in the CTE Classroom**

This online course, which can be taken for professional development hours, undergraduate credit, or graduate credit, introduces teachers to practical literacy strategies and engaging critical thinking methods. The goal is to improve classroom engagement and career understanding for your students while increasing their academic stamina. Teachers will become familiar with all portions of the WorkKeys test while generating literacy techniques that provide students with the skills and understanding for program area success. Participants will leave with the tools to practice academic calisthenics routinely, strategically, and deliberately in their teaching and learning.



And More Coming Attractions!



New PD Topics!

- *Portfolio and Project-Based Assessment Using the Five Types Framework*
- *Writing as a Tool for Test Prep*
- *Literacy in CTE Schools*
- *Using Literacy to Build Stamina and Confidence for WorkKeys*

Email cmcdonough@collinsed.com for more information.

We're adding new sessions all the time! Continue to check our [Public Courses](#) for updates.

Have an idea for a training topic? Send it to cmcdonough@collinsed.com and if we take your suggestion, we will send you a free print or PDF item of your choice from our online store!

Next Month's Focus: What research and experts in the field tell us about the strategies we promote

Send your questions or anecdotes to cmcdonough@collinsed.com Those included in our next issue will receive a free Desktop Guide!

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RESULTS

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