Collins Writing Exchange

Weekly Assignment

Ideas, Tips, and Resources on Writing from Collins Education Associates

A Note to Our Readers

Thanks for Your Interest

Thank you so much for your response to Weekly Assignment. As we look at the number of downloads and new subscribers, it is obvious that we’re providing resources that you value. We have a new resource this week, Daily Quick-Fix Sentences, and information on online summer graduate courses. More new stuff next week! See you then.

Weekly Assignment

Opinion/Argument Writing: Making and Supporting a Point of View

Effective opinion/argument writing is built around two simple elements: expressing a point of view and supporting it with evidence. That’s the gist of argument writing, but students need guidance and practice to become proficient. Each of the projects that follow are fully developed lessons that provide your students with support and guidance as they shape their ideas into an effectively written opinion or argument.

- Primary: My Book Review
- Elementary: Book of the Year
- Middle School: News with a View
- High School: Taking a Stand on an Issue
- Career and Technology (HS): Making Thoughtful Recommendations

Daily Quick-Fix Sentences

Reinforcing Frequently Used Conventions
A common frustration for teachers is when students fail to use conventions in their writing that they already know—like forgetting to capitalize a proper noun or not using a comma to separate items in a series. Our Check Mate student guides provide an easy-to-use reminder about the essential (and most used) conventions. But the truth is, students need more practice with conventions than they get with their own writing. That's why we developed Daily Quick-Fix Sentences (DQFS). DQFS are brief, engaging opportunities for students to edit content-rich sentences that have oversights with essential conventions.

Use the links below to get a PDF of basic rules for your grade level about writing complete sentences from *Check Mate: A Quick Reference Guide for Essential Conventions*. Also, link to a set of Daily Quick-Fix Sentences for your grade level. Each set of DQFS has focused practice specifically on problems with complete sentences. Each also includes mixed and extended practices that require editing for a range of convention rules. Each set is accompanied by an answer key.

**Daily Quick-Fix Sentences**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Check Mate Complete Sentence Rules</th>
<th>Daily Quick-Fix Sentences &amp; Answer Key</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level P (grades 2-3)</td>
<td>Level P (grades 2-3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level A (grades 4-6)</td>
<td>Level A (grades 4-6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level B (grades 6-9)</td>
<td>Level B (grades 6-9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level C (grades 9-12)</td>
<td>Level C (grades 9-12)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FCA Suggestion:** Make complete sentences a Focus Correction Area (FCA) for this assignment since students have the *Check Mate* resource guide! For upper grades, use No Fragments or Run-ons as a possible FCA.

See you next week!

**Essential Conventions**

**Quick Links**

**Online Summer Graduate Courses**

Collins Associate Cheryl McDonough is offering three online summer graduate courses in collaboration with Castleton University in Vermont. Click on a course for details and to register. Or, email Cheryl for more information.

**Courses**

- Improving Student Performance Through Writing and Thinking Across the Curriculum ~ Grades K-4
- Improving Student Performance Through Writing and Thinking Across the Curriculum ~ Grades 4-12
- Meeting Literacy Demands in Career and Technical Schools