



Teaching Expository and Informational Writing “Across-the-Curriculum”

Affectionately referred to as our "All-Staff" training, this workshop provides teachers of 3rd thru 12th grade students with strategies, prompts, and practice for writing in all classes -- not just English Language Arts classes.

ELA teachers continue to teach the writing process, but in this workshop all teachers learn how to effectively integrate writing into their curricula.

We begin with common terminology for writing, so that students and teachers in all content areas can speak the same language when it comes to writing. Then, in our JSWP ratio discussion and body paragraph structure, we demonstrate how career and technology, English language arts, fine arts, mathematics, physical education, social studies, science, and world languages teachers guide their students to understand the writing requirement differences of their content areas from ELA classes. We examine the techniques of summarizing and writing informational texts and practice the one-chunk paragraph for both non text-based and text-based writing. In a one-day workshop, our focus is on the organization of a body paragraph. We end the day with the introduction and the conclusion of the essay. In our two-day workshop, we expand the knowledge base into two-chunk paragraphs, text-based embedding of quotations, and effective prompt writing techniques.

Writing prompts and/or sample paragraphs are included for the core subjects, as well as career and technology, fine arts, physical education, religious studies, and world languages.

The workshop is divided into three parts. Part I provides teachers with strategies regarding non-text-based writing -- "writing about what you know." Part II provides teachers with an understanding of how to teach students the importance of summarizing, including finding the main idea and evaluating evidence (concrete details). Part III instructs teachers on techniques in teaching text-based writing skills, including citing evidence (concrete details) through embedded quotations from primary and secondary resources.

Standards:

For ELA:

- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

For Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects:

- Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes.

For All-Staff:

- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.