



## — WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT KRISTINA SMEKENS —

*“I always walk away with a bag full of ideas”* T. Funk

“Kristina’s dynamic personality is the perfect match for getting everyone excited about teaching! Her humor and insights are amazing. She really connects to the audience. This workshop doesn’t feel like ‘work’ at all!” S. Hunley

“As a literacy coach, I have been to dozens of workshops about improving reading & writing. This workshop provided me with more practical, student-friendly strategies for improving student writing than all the others combined!” C. Gliva

“Kristina has so much energy and keeps everything moving. She is very ‘in tune’ with her audience. The resources available are superior.” Y. Pence

“This was exciting and very motivational. Kristina did a great job of providing a variety of ideas for all grade levels, including high school.” J. Baumer

“The only intention Kristina seems to have is to make the life of a teacher easier and the achievement of our kids higher.” D. Geise

“I love your enthusiasm, advice, support, and online resources. I feel like I can immediately go back to my classroom and apply what I’ve learned. Thank you for a great day!” L. Kennedy

“I was highly engaged from start to finish! The strategies were right on target, and I was so impressed with your ability to differentiate for a K-12 audience. The quality of resources were phenomenal and your use of humorous examples was both hilarious and on target!” T. Brewer-Bacon

“Awesome workshop! I feel like I’ve learned more about writing instruction in seven hours than I learned in seven years of college!” L. Palmer

“Wow! What a great, hands-on, useful day! I had so many of my questions answered. She brought all the ‘book reading’ about the writing traits to life for me!” J. Sass

“Best workshop ever! Kristina’s a master of organization, a wealth of information, and makes it all fun!” B. Cieplak

“Presentation was animated, funny, and full of real-life teaching experiences! What a great way to not only laugh at myself, but to find ways to make me a better teacher.” P. Provenzano

“After 27 years, there is still so much to learn. You, Kristina, can teach an old dog new tricks!” M. Steves-Brown

“Each time I attend a workshop with Kristina, I leave feeling more and more prepared! I know I can use the things learned in my classroom!” D. Hill

“Amazing! Best workshop I’ve ever been too! I feel I can teach writing successfully!” A. Damer

“I have learned so much that I can use right away. I love that I am walking away with a plan and the tools I need to teach writing. I’m really excited about teaching writing for the first time!” J. Blackford

“This workshop gave me dozens of ideas without making me feel pressed for time or overwhelmed. I’m so excited to take these back to my classroom! As a first year teacher I now have tools at my disposal for many years to come!” K. Bennett

“Wow! Kristina is serious about helping teachers change the way they teach!” M. Losco

“After attending the Vocabulary workshop, I’m thinking about vocab in a whole new way! So many activities that make learning meaningful for our kids but don’t take hours of a teacher’s time. Loved the day!” M. Maffey

“As always, a masterful presentation of strategies to use in the classroom! The process of modeling for us and then having us practice was very helpful!” J. Miller

*Thank you! Thank you! Our ISTEP scores just came in, and yes, we went up in our writing scores. We had more sixes, fives and fours than ever before. A large part of that I know was due to you. What you have done for our building is amazing!*

Mike Grubb, Bailly Elementary Principal  
(Chesterton, IN)

*I am so excited!!! I have been analyzing our ISTEP scores in depth, and our writing scores raised phenomenally after the 1st year. Our students averaged a point-and-a-half gain on the 6-point test. As I read some of our students’ work, I am amazed at the quality of their writing. Our teachers and students are excited about the 6 Traits! Your delivery of instruction has helped us in this endeavor and I look forward to continuing our relationship. Thank You!*

Tony Personett, Wilbur Wright  
Elementary Principal (New Castle, IN)

*After Kristina introduced and helped us implement 6+1 writing traits over multiple years, we have just celebrated in 2006 having 80% of our third graders score a 4 or better on the ISTEP+ assessment (Up from 45% in 2004). The teachers very much look forward to Kristina’s days in our building. We appreciate her vast knowledge of writing instruction, enthusiasm for the topic, and professional leadership in helping guide us to know where to go next in each step of improving our writing instruction!*

Valree Kinch, Converse  
Elementary Principal (Converse, IN)

*As a principal, I am thrilled with the writing results from the ISTEP+ this year. I feel strongly that the training that our building has received from Kristina has been instrumental in raising our writing test scores. The teachers and staff have now been given a tool to actually teach writing. The confidence level of the staff to teach writing has increased; therefore, it has made a huge difference in the way our students are now learning to write. Students now come down to my office wanting to share their latest pieces of writing.*

Marilyn Hissong, Highland Terrace  
Elementary Principal (New Haven, IN)

To book Kristina Smekens for your school, call Smekens Education @ 888-376-0448