

PURDUE UNIVERSITY CALUMET
EDCI 589 Professional Development Workshop
Fall--2009

COURSE TITLE:
I Know the 6-Traits. Now What?

CREDIT HOURS:

1 Credit

FEE:

\$256.10

Check made payable to Purdue University Calumet. Credit card payments are also available.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

Brady Smekens, Smekens Education Solutions, Inc.
Kristina Smekens, K-12 Literacy Consultant

All course assignments are due within 10 days of the workshop attended.

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Workshop Overview:

If you've had the 6-Trait introduction, then you're ready to take it to the next level. This workshop addresses how to take the 6-Traits from six words floating around the classroom to full-blown emersion and implementation all year long. Kristina will offer you ways to organize, manage, and implement the traits to heighten the effectiveness of your trait teaching.

Training topics:

- Learn ways to put the 6-Traits at the center of your writer's workshop. See how actual teachers have displayed and woven the traits into their mini-lessons, writer's notebooks, writer conferences, picture-book read alouds, and classroom environment.
- A large chunk of this day will be spent studying the traits within four major genres: narrative, expository, persuasive, poetry. This information will help teachers weave the traits within writing projects and assignments all year long.
- Utilizing the traits during writer's workshop is necessary, but what about during reading? Learn methods of bringing the traits into your reading lessons.
- Learn methods of organizing your picture books for teaching the traits. Learn ways to plan trait references within your reading lessons. Learn how to target key content-areas for writing traits.
- Learn how to build kid-friendly rubrics with students, and other assessment tools. Also, learn a simple method for converting rubric scores to grades.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & EVALUATION:

Participants will attend a 6-hour class. A minimum of 9 additional hours must be dedicated to completing the course project outside of class. For the course project, participants have a choice between two options:

OPTION #1 Write a reflective paper outlining key priorities for advancing the implementation of the 6-Traits within your classroom/school building. Identify THREE strategies to work on. Some ideas from the workshop might include:

- Creating an environment to support the 6-Traits
- Weaving the 6-Traits into the year long writing curriculum (units/genres)
- Organizing read alouds to correspond with trait-based writing lessons
- Utilizing writing rubrics and other assessment tools within the classroom

PAGE LENGTH:

- Organize the write-up by strategy (Strategy #1, Strategy #2, Strategy #3)
- Maximum is two pages per "task". Do not exceed 6 pages; no minimum requirement

OPTION #2 Dissect 3 picture books for individual writing skills, excluding Trait Tracker titles.

For each book dissection:

1. **Sort** the writing skills by the traits (see samples passed out during the retreat session)
2. Include specific writing skills for **every** trait for **each** book.
3. Identify **specific words, phrases and sentences** from the book for the skills listed, **including page numbers**.

SETUP & PAGE LENGTH:

Email the picture book dissections as a Word document file, **OR** Submit the project on 5 cardstock "bookmarks" that you created.

GRADING: This is a pass/fail course.