

SIX TRAITS



GRAMMAR & CONVENTIONS



WRITING ABOUT READING



BEST-OF-SMEKENS

WRITING CONFERENCE



NOVEMBER, 2019 • Indianapolis, IN – Lawrenceburg, IN – Chicago, IL – Columbus, OH



MODES & GENRES



WRITER'S WORKSHOP MANAGEMENT



TEXT-BASED RESPONSES

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

For emerging writing teachers

- Learn the classroom-tested writing strategies that have helped thousands of teachers transform their writing instruction from good to great.
- Learn what it takes to prepare students at every level to succeed on the writing portions of state and national assessments.
- Choose sessions that will help you to overcome your greatest challenges in teaching writing.

For experienced writing teachers

- Fine-tune your writing instruction with practical and engaging strategies that motivate students at every level.
- Learn standards-driven techniques to help students to respond to reading with writing.
- Learn classroom-tested strategies that are targeted for your specific grade range.



Who should attend?

- K-6 General Education Teachers
- K-12 Special Education Teachers
- Literacy Coaches & Coordinators
- 6-12 Language Arts Teachers
- ELL Teachers
- Title I Teachers
- High-Ability Teachers
- Principals & Assistant Principals
- MS & HS Content-Area Teachers



"The task of writing is daunting! This workshop is perfect for all of us who want to become better teachers but have no idea where to begin."

Chad Dickson • teacher at River View Junior High School, Warsaw, OH

"The binder of information is an amazing take-away. I cannot wait to go share this with my team and my students. This will be something I turn to weekly for writing plans from here on out! This conference and all presenters were amazing. This has been the most beneficial PD I have ever attended."

Chelsae Johnson • teacher at North Middle School, Henderson, KY



Writing Remix LOCATIONS

November 4-5

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Embassy Suites Plainfield

WORKSHOP HOTEL RATE:

Sunday & Monday nights

Double: \$149/night

State and local taxes (currently 15%) are additional.

Published rates valid until October 4, 2019.

TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM:

Call (317) 839-1106.

Provide the group name "Smekens Education."

November 7-8

LAWRENCEBURG, IN

DoubleTree Hilton

WORKSHOP HOTEL RATE:

Wednesday & Thursday nights

Double rooms: \$104/night

State and local taxes (currently 12%) are additional.

Published rates valid until October 23, 2019.

TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM:

Call (812) 539-8888.

Provide the group code "SME."

November 13-14

CHICAGO, IL

Drury Lane Conference Center

WORKSHOP HOTEL RATE:

Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Suites

Tuesday & Wednesday nights

Single or Double: \$159/night

Triple: \$169/night | Quad: \$179/night

State and local taxes (currently 20%) are additional. Published rates valid until October 21, 2019.

TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM:

Call (630) 941-0100.

Provide the group name "Smekens Education."

November 20-21

COLUMBUS, OH

Crown Plaza Hotel

Columbus North

WORKSHOP HOTEL RATE:

Tuesday & Wednesday nights

Single or Double: \$119/night

State and local taxes (currently 17.5%) are additional. Published rates valid until November 3, 2019.

TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM:

Call (614) 885-1885 or visit

www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/columbus/cmhda/hoteldetail.

Provide the group name "SM1."



Day 1 PICK YOUR MIX

Six Traits

SESSION 1:
Recognize the 6 Traits within K-12 Student Writing
Grades K-12, ELL All Levels

SESSION 2:
Introduce the 6 Traits to Students
Grades K-12, ELL All Levels

SESSION 3:
Manage an Effective Trait-Based Writer's Workshop
Grades K-12, ELL All Levels

SESSION 4:
Discover 9 Ways to Target Elaboration & Organization
Grades 2-12, ELL Levels 3-5

SESSION 5:
Assess Writing with a 6-Traits Rubric
Grades 2-12, ELL Levels 3-5

Grammar & Conventions

SESSION 1:
Teach Grammar Skills One Mini-Lesson at a Time
Grades K-12, ELL All Levels

SESSION 2:
Align Conventions within Writing Units
Grades K-12, ELL All Levels

SESSION 3:
Teach the Same Grammar Skill Across Multiple Days
Grades K-12, ELL All Levels

SESSION 4:
Move Toward Mastery of Convention Skills
Grades 3-12, ELL Levels 3-5

SESSION 5:
Improve Basic Sentence Conventions
Grades K-2, ELL Levels 1-2

Writing About Reading

SESSION 1:
Generate 4 Types of Narratives in Response to Reading
Grades 2-12, ELL Levels 3-5

SESSION 2:
Annotate & Note-Take in Preparation for Writing
Grades K-12, ELL All Levels

SESSION 3:
Write After-Reading Summaries in the Content Areas
Grades 2-12, ELL Levels 3-5

SESSION 4:
Generate Opinion-Based Reading Responses
Grades K-2, ELL Levels 1-2

SESSION 5:
Cultivate Compare-Contrast Writing Skills
Grades K-12, ELL All Levels

Day 1 SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

8:00-9:15 A.M.

SIX TRAITS

Recognize the 6 Traits within K-12 Student Writing

Participants will walk away with a strong understanding of what each trait looks like in a variety of grade levels and writing genres. This is a great first session as the trait language is central to nearly all other Remix sessions.

K-12, ELL All Levels | PRESENTER: Kristina Smekens

GRAMMAR & CONVENTIONS

Teach Grammar Skills One Mini-Lesson at a Time

Conventions instruction must go beyond memorizing rules. Rather, focus on the purpose, function, and impact the grammar skill has on a sentence's overall message. This session outlines several ways to make your initial grammar lessons more powerful, more visual, and more memorable.

K-12, ELL All Levels | PRESENTER: Courtney Gordon

WRITING ABOUT READING

Generate 4 Types of Narratives in Response to Reading

For most states, the writing portions of standardized assessments are now all rooted in reading. Attendees of this session will leave with numerous ways to teach these new writing-about-reading genres to students with mentor texts and lesson ideas.

2-12, ELL Levels 3-5 | PRESENTER: Kristi McCullough

9:30-10:35 A.M.

Introduce the 6 Traits to Students

This session reveals several ways to introduce the trait language to your students using mentor text, song lyrics, and visual icons. Leave this session with a clear vision for how to introduce the traits to your own students.

K-12, ELL All Levels | PRESENTER: Kristi McCullough

Align Conventions within Writing Units

Unfortunately, many students who can correct sentences in workbooks and pass online quizzes cannot apply appropriate conventions within their own writing. In this session, attendees learn effective ways to weave convention instruction within current writing units.

K-12, ELL All Levels | PRESENTER: Kristina Smekens

Annotate & Note-Take in Preparation for Writing

Knowing students have to read and respond to complex texts, teaching them to engage in purposeful annotation can be a game-changer. Participants will receive a scaffold of age-appropriate codes and markings to build a set of consistent expectations across all grade levels.

K-12, ELL All Levels | PRESENTER: Courtney Gordon

10:50-11:55 A.M.

Manage an Effective, Trait-Based Writer's Workshop

It's not a choice between using the 6 Traits of Writing or the writer's workshop model. The power is teaching the 6 traits *within* the writer's workshop. See how the 6 traits are easily woven into all three facets of a writer's workshop and all steps of the writing process.

K-12, ELL All Levels | PRESENTER: Courtney Gordon

Teach the Same Grammar Skill Across Multiple Days

A grammar skill is not mastered in a single 15-minute lesson or via a workbook practice page. There is a developmental progression and gradual release that occurs across 3-5 days of a mini-lesson series. Participants will learn numerous ways to support students as they integrate new skills into their own writings.

K-12, ELL All Levels | PRESENTER: Kristina Smekens

Write After-Reading Summaries in the Content Areas

Support students as they attempt to write strong, complete, and cohesive summaries that utilize content-area vocabulary. Try out several strategies during this session and see authentic student examples collected from various content areas and grade levels.

2-12, ELL Levels 3-5 | PRESENTER: Kristi McCullough

BEST-OF-SMEKENS
WRITING CONFERENCE

Day 1 SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

1:05-2:10 P.M.

SIX TRAITS

Discover 9 Ways to Target Elaboration & Organization

Although there are 6 traits, they are not equally important. The focus of writing improvement must be on idea development and logical organization. Attendees will learn popular *Smekensized* mini-lessons that make the biggest impact on the quality of student writing.

2-12, ELL Levels 3-5 | PRESENTER: Kristi McCullough

GRAMMAR & CONVENTIONS

Move Toward Mastery of Convention Skills

Once students have a solid understanding of a new grammar skill, it's time to move them toward mastery. This includes numerous opportunities to practice the skill authentically through a variety of bell-ringer activities, peer-editing exercises, self-editing checklists, and more.

3-12, ELL Levels 3-5 | PRESENTER: Kristina Smekens

WRITING ABOUT READING

Generate Opinion-Based Reading Responses

Young writers are expected to write simple persuasive pieces, *and* they have to respond to their reading. This session reveals numerous lesson concepts to improve students' opinion writing tied to popular picture books read in the primary grades.

K-2, ELL Levels 1-2 | PRESENTER: Courtney Gordon

2:25-3:30 P.M.

Assess Writing with a 6-Traits Rubric

This session will reveal how simply 6-traits rubrics can be incorporated in the intermediate and secondary writing classroom. Teachers will learn how to create kid-friendly rubrics, how to revise the rubric as writers grow, and how to convert writing scores to grades.

2-12, ELL Levels 3-5 | PRESENTER: Courtney Gordon

Improve Basic Sentence Conventions

When primary students have acquired phonics skills and developed sentence sense, they are ready for their first conventions mini-lessons in writing. This session includes ideas to teach spacing between words, ending thoughts with punctuation, stretching fragments into sentences, self-editing, and more.

K-2, ELL Levels 1-2 | PRESENTER: Kristi McCullough

Cultivate Compare-Contrast Writing Skills

Collecting and comparing information about two topics is a common writing expectation. This session breaks down the 3-step process of comparative thinking for compare-contrast pieces that are well-developed and logically organized.

K-12, ELL All Levels | PRESENTER: Kristina Smekens

"I LOVED the opportunity to choose the sessions to attend—I chose grammar/conventions because it has always been my weakness, so the opportunity to focus on this one part made me feel less overwhelmed and more prepared to implement."

Hannah Shull • teacher at Logan Hocking Middle School, Logan, OH



Day 2 PICK YOUR MIX

Modes & Genres

SESSION 1:

Meet the Argumentative Writing Standard

Grades 3-12, ELL Levels 3-5

SESSION 2:

Target Key Skills within an Informative Writing Unit

Grades 3-12, ELL Levels 3-5

SESSION 3:

Plan the Year of Writing Units

Grades 2-12, ELL Levels 3-5

SESSION 4:

Know the Narrative Non-Negotiables

Grades K-12, ELL All Levels

SESSION 5:

Teach Developmentally-Appropriate Writing in the Primary Grades

Grades K-2, ELL Levels 1-2

Writer's Workshop Management

SESSION 1:

Execute the 4 Steps of a Dynamic Mini-Lesson

Grades K-12, All Levels

SESSION 2:

Confer with Writers Daily

Grades K-12, ELL All Levels

SESSION 3:

Fit Writing into your Elementary Schedule

Grades K-6, Self-Contained

SESSION 4:

Foster Independent Writers

Grades K-12, ELL All Levels

SESSION 5:

Craft Powerful e-Learning Writing Tasks

Grades 2-12, ELL Levels 3-5

Text-Based Responses

SESSION 1:

Decode the Writing Prompt

Grades K-12, ELL All Levels

SESSION 2:

Follow 5 Steps to Make an Inference

Grades K-12, ELL All Levels

SESSION 3:

Strengthen Short Constructed-Response Writing

Grades 2-12, ELL Levels 3-5

SESSION 4:

Generate Long Extended Responses Based on Reading

Grades 3-12, ELL Levels 3-5

SESSION 5:

Refine the Definition of Textual Evidence

Grades 2-12, ELL Levels 3-5

BEST-OF-SMEKENS
WRITING CONFERENCE

Day 2 SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

8:00-9:15 A.M.

MODES & GENRES

Meet the Argumentative Writing Standard

There are subtle, but significant differences between persuasive and argumentative writing. After an explicit description of each, receive lesson ideas that target the essential writing skills necessary for both within a standards-based curriculum.

3-12, ELL Levels 3-5 | PRESENTER: Kristina Smekens

WRITER'S WORKSHOP MANAGEMENT

Execute the 4 Steps of a Dynamic Mini-Lesson

During this session, teachers learn the 4 steps of a powerful 10-15 minute writing lesson. Learn the hallmarks of highly-effective teaching that include student engagement and the gradual release of responsibility.

K-12, All Levels | PRESENTER: Courtney Gordon

TEXT-BASED RESPONSES

Decode the Writing Prompt

With the pressure of on-demand prompt writing, many students focus on identifying the prompt topic but overlook the type of writing they are directed to generate. To succeed on an assessment, students need a strong background on the essential ingredients to include within the different genres. This session provides mini-lesson ideas for these necessary skills.

K-12, ELL All Levels | PRESENTER: Kristi McCullough

9:30-10:35 A.M.

Target Key Skills within an Informative Writing Unit

Learn the most essential writing lessons to embed into any informative writing unit. These include knowing how to pull information from sources, gather and organize the important details, identify a topic/thesis statement, and present interesting facts and expert quotes.

3-12, ELL Levels 3-5 | PRESENTER: Courtney Gordon

Confer with Writers Daily

Meeting with every writer every day is a daunting task. However, group conferring is a way to touch base with more students more frequently. This session will outline the 4-step rhythm to an efficient teacher-writer meeting.

K-12, ELL All Levels | PRESENTER: Kristi McCullough

Follow 5 Steps to Make an Inference

Reading comprehension is no longer assessed with literal questions that have right-there answers. Now students must face text-dependent questions that require them to make an inference and support it with evidence. This session demystifies this abstract concept into a concrete 5-step process.

K-12, ELL All Levels | PRESENTER: Kristina Smekens

10:50-11:55 A.M.

Plan the Year of Writing Units

Teachers at all levels are expected to provide writing experiences across the three major modes—argumentative, informative, and narrative. However, this does not have to include a single mother-lode unit that spans weeks and ends with a final draft. Participants in this session leave with a calendar suggesting a progression of mini-units across the year.

2-12, ELL Levels 3-5 | PRESENTER: Courtney Gordon

Fit Writing into your Elementary Schedule

This session begins with various ways to fit writing into the daily schedule of a self-contained classroom, including how they can be applied to math, science, and social studies. The rest of the time focuses on the importance of providing regular whole-class mini-lessons and independent writing experiences.

K-6, Self-Contained | PRESENTER: Kristi McCullough

Strengthen Short Constructed-Response Writing

This session begins with a quick review of what a strong constructed response includes as defined by state rubrics and artificial-intelligence scoring. The rest of this session focuses on the essential ingredients to a well-written constructed response utilizing the Yes, MA'AM and RACE strategies.

2-12, ELL Levels 3-5 | PRESENTER: Kristina Smekens

1:05-2:10 P.M.

Know the Narrative Non-Negotiables

Although narrative writing is the third writing mode listed in the standards, it does have a place in today's classrooms and tomorrow's careers. This session digs into the two *required* elements of every story—first crafting the problem and then its solution.

K-12, ELL All Levels | PRESENTER: Courtney Gordon

Foster Independent Writers

This session offers practical strategies for handling the "I'm done" writer and the "I need help" student. Learn several routines and procedures that will build writer stamina and student independence, regardless of their age or grade level.

K-12, ELL All Levels | PRESENTER: Kristi McCullough

Generate Long Extended Responses Based on Reading

Extended-reading responses require students to know how to supersize the Yes, MA'AM and RACE formulas. In this session, attendees learn how to teach students to generate a strong, multi-paragraph response that includes a powerful combination of evidence and elaboration as defined by state rubrics and artificial-intelligence scoring.

3-12, ELL Levels 3-5 | PRESENTER: Kristina Smekens

2:25-3:30 P.M.

Teach Developmentally-Appropriate Writing in the Primary Grades

This session reveals skills that fit the drawing, labeling, listing, and sentence-writing stages. In addition, learn how persuasive, informative, and narrative writing are represented within each of these stages and fit within a yearlong calendar.

K-2, ELL Levels 1-2 | PRESENTER: Kristi McCullough

Craft Powerful e-Learning Writing Tasks

Many districts have instituted e-learning days where students engage in academic studies via a digital device. This session targets how to utilize the writer's workshop as an e-learning experience, including executing a mini-lesson and providing for independent writing time.

2-12, ELL Levels 3-5 | PRESENTER: Kristina Smekens

Refine the Definition of Textual Evidence

Although supporting thinking with textual evidence is not a new concept, not all students meet the expectations of the standards. This session troubleshoots 4 common errors that plague students' responses—lacking evidence, making up evidence, providing just a detail, or missing an explanation.

2-12, ELL Levels 3-5 | PRESENTER: Courtney Gordon

BEST-OF-SMEKENS WRITING CONFERENCE

What's included for all attendees

HANDOUTS FROM EVERY SESSION:

Receive a binder stuffed to the brim with full-color handouts from all 30 sessions.

MEMBERS-ONLY "SECRET SITE:"

Gain lifetime access to the conference "secret site." This password-protected website features hundreds of digital resources, including lessons, videos, photos, whiteboard documents, and more. (All 30 sessions are included!)

ON-SITE BOOKSTORE:

Teachers always look forward to browsing the selection of professional books, picture books, and other resources available on site from The Literacy Store. As always, attendees will enjoy a 15% discount. For an advance look at what The Literacy Store has to offer, visit www.TheLiteracyStore.com.



Continuing Education

Writing Remix attendees will receive a completion certificate at the conclusion of the event to provide evidence of participation in 11 hours of professional development (5.5 hours per day).

FOR ILLINOIS TEACHERS: Thanks to a partnership with the Regional Office of Education #19, all Illinois teachers attending our November 13-14 session in Chicago are eligible to earn state-approved continuing education credit for 11 hours of training. Smekens Education is an approved subcontractor for ROE #19.

Graduate-Level Credit

Through a partnership with University of the Pacific, conference attendees can earn one, two, or three hours of nationally-accredited graduate-level semester credit for attending the Writing Remix Conference. The cost of graduate-level credit (\$62 per credit) is separate from the cost of attending the conference. For more information, please contact us.

MEALS & REFRESHMENTS:

At each Remix location, attendees will enjoy all-day access to coffee, hot tea, soda, and water. Plus, enjoy a complimentary continental breakfast and a hearty hot lunch on each day of the conference.



"Huge bonus was providing participants with ALL the resources. This took the stress out of choosing the 'right' sessions because you could pre-look and still learn even if you didn't attend the session."

Angie Garber • teacher at Wilson Elementary School, Cincinnati, OH

"The binder is AMAZING! I love getting all the handouts. I can't wait to share these writing techniques with other content-area teachers in my building."

Traci Ehrick • teacher at Franklin Local School District, Duncan Falls, OH



Meet the PRESENTERS



KRISTINA SMEKENS

A dynamic teacher and presenter, Kristina has built a reputation for using enthusiasm, humor, and common sense to equip K-12 educators with practical, demystifying strategies for teaching reading and writing.

As president and lead consultant for Smekens Education, Kristina has authored more than 50 "Smekens Originals," which consist of books, guides, and other classroom tools. Among the most popular of these resources are her best-selling books, *Launching the Writer's Workshop: Grades K-2 (3rd Edition)*, and *Launching the Writer's Workshop: Grades 3-12 (3rd Edition)*.



COURTNEY GORDON

Known both for her enthusiasm and expertise, Courtney is a dynamic presenter whose practical strategies for teaching reading and writing resonate with teachers across the K-12 spectrum.

Courtney taps into her own classroom experience as a middle school language arts teacher as she guides K-12 teachers toward effective literacy instruction throughout the curriculum. Teachers, administrators, and students all look forward to watching Courtney demonstrate best-practice mini-lesson strategies in actual classrooms.



KRISTI McCULLOUGH

Teachers love the authentic, "from-the-trenches" insight that Kristi McCullough offers during her professional development sessions with teachers. Her own experience as an elementary teacher and literacy coach provides the perfect backdrop for Kristi to share practical ways to deliver research-based best practices.

Kristi has worked with thousands of teachers across the United States delivering regional seminars and customized on-site school trainings that focus on teaching reading and writing.



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SAVE UP TO \$39 PER PERSON

When you register early with a group of 3 or more.

SAVE UP TO \$30 PER PERSON

When you register early.



BEST-OF-SMEKENS WRITING CONFERENCE



"This is by far the best writing training I have attended. I am an administrator, and your presentations have caused me to miss my classroom instruction greatly! WOW!"

Christie Ireland • River View Local School District, Warsaw, OH



SIX TRAITS



GRAMMAR & CONVENTIONS



WRITING ABOUT READING



MODES & GENRES



WRITER'S WORKSHOP MANAGEMENT



TEXT-BASED RESPONSES