



# Launching the Writer's Workshop

Grades K-2

*A framework of lessons to help launch your writing year*

**SIMPLE & EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE ACHIEVEMENT IN WRITING**

## Online Workshop Overview

Many teachers have confessed that they struggle to get their writer's workshop off the ground. *What should I do the first weeks of school? What are key lessons to jump-start my writing curriculum? How fast or slow should I move?* Regardless of the writing model you're currently using, this online workshop provides K-2 teachers with a powerful framework of lessons that can help launch their writing year. Throughout the workshop, teachers will have the opportunity to plot and plan their own instructional calendar for teaching writing during the first six weeks of school. At the end of the online workshop, teachers will be ready to launch their writer's workshop with their personalized blueprints in hand!



*"Everything presented has been applicable to my kindergarten classroom, and I can already feel my confidence as a writing teacher growing! It makes so much sense!"*

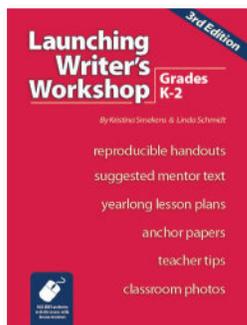
**Meredith Wolff**, teacher at Camden Primary School, Camden, OH

## Workshop Topics:

- Understand the four phases of the workshop launch.
- Learn classroom-tested routines and procedures to establish the writing environment.
- Set the tone that writing occurs daily.
- Receive organizational ideas for writers' notebooks.
- Learn day-by-day strategies to introduce the 6 Traits of Writing so teachers and students are using a common language.
- Balance free-choice writing topics with teacher-assigned topics.
- Receive ready-to-go lessons with supporting resources, activity pages, and authentic student writing samples.

## The book is included!

Receive a FREE digital copy of *Launching the Writer's Workshop: Grades K-2* to use as the handout during the workshop. (A retail value of \$28!)



**Grades K-2**  
by Kristina Smekens & Linda Schmidt

## WORKSHOP OUTLINE

### Phase #1: Writing Topics

- Share stories; write about what you know; generate ABC chart topics; identify visual writing topics; write for different purposes; & write to an audience

### Phase #2: Setting Expectations

- Meet for daily instruction; define "workshop"; outline sharing time/author's chair; provide a Help! tent; & hold writer conferences

### Phase #2: Creating Notebooks

- Introduce the writer's notebook & establish procedures

### Phase #2: Motivating Writers

- Initiate a *Done List* & make space to revise

### Phase #2: Developing Spelling

- Use environmental print; introduce word charts; & stretch words in 3 steps

### Phase #3: Introducing the Six Traits

- Conduct a trait introduction & build a yearlong visual display

### Phase #4: Building Rubrics

- Build a drawing rubric

### Total time to complete:

*5-6 hours; (allotted time to complete the online workshop: 30 days)*

## Instructor:

Kristina Smekens  
President & Lead Consultant  
for Smekens Education Solutions, Inc.

## Who benefits?

- K-2 Classroom Teachers
- Literacy Coaches
- Literacy Coordinators
- Title I Teachers / Directors
- ELL Teachers
- K-2 High-Ability Teachers
- Elementary Administrators

## When you complete the online workshop you'll be able to

- ✓ Kick off the school year with a 20-day "game plan" for teaching writing.
- ✓ Establish routines to effectively manage a writer's workshop.
- ✓ Address common writer dependencies with procedural mini-lessons.
- ✓ Implement a writer's notebook in the classroom.
- ✓ Lead efficient and effective writing conferences with students.
- ✓ Develop a classroom writing rubric that students can use and understand.
- ✓ Transition from procedural lessons into the first writing unit.

## Top questions teachers ask about launching writing

- ▶ Which workshop procedures are essential for effective classroom management?
- ▶ What physical spaces and places should I have within my classroom environment?
- ▶ How do I motivate my writers to use class time productively?
- ▶ How do I help my students develop more interesting writing topics?
- ▶ How can I motivate students to go beyond "fixing their mistakes" during revision?
- ▶ What are some proven methods for introducing students to the 6 Traits of Writing?
- ▶ How do I effectively organize my students' writings in notebooks, binders, or folders?

*Kristina Smekens provides the answers to these questions and many more!*

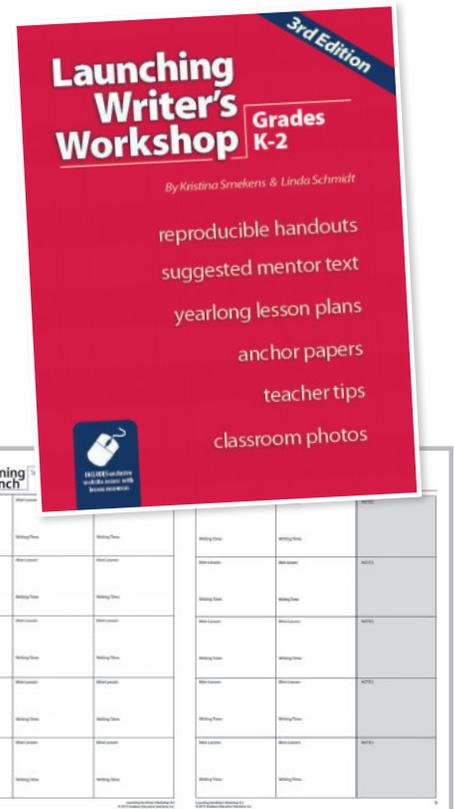
## FREE DIGITAL BOOK

# Your handbook for teaching writing

The first seven sections of this resource will help you start (launch) your writer's workshop. They include procedural lessons and strategies essential for establishing classroom management and building writer independence. Depending on your grade level, this "launch" could take up to six weeks to complete.

Once you've launched your writing instruction, use sections 8-13 to help you plan the rest of your year. There are more than 70 additional writing lessons that target the skills students need at different developmental stages of writing—drawing, labeling, listing, sentence writing, etc.

A planning calendar (pp. 8-9) will help you plot and plan which lessons you'll utilize to launch and sustain your writer's workshop. (A PDF and editable Word version of this planning calendar are available via the online resource.)



## Continuing Education Credit

With prior approval from the registrant's school district, participants may receive credit for 10 hours of professional development for this webAcademy online workshop. Attendees who choose the "Verified View" option may download a completion certificate after completing the online workshop. For possible Illinois-approved credit, please contact our office, support@smekenseducation.com or call (888) 376-0448.

## Graduate-Level Units

Thanks to a partnership with the University of the Pacific, educators who complete a webAcademy workshop are eligible to pursue 1, 2, or 3 nationally-accredited graduate-level semester units. To earn graduate-level units, participants must select the "Verified View" enrollment option. The cost of graduate-level units (\$62 per unit) is separate from the cost of the online workshop.

Graduate-level units offered through the University of the Pacific are non-degree units which are designed for professional certification renewals and salary step increases. (The units are post-baccalaureate professional development semester units of non-degree graduate level and are not applicable to a degree at University of the Pacific.) To learn more, contact our office—support@smekenseducation.com or call (888) 376-0448.

## ABOUT THE PRESENTER

# Kristina Smekens

Kristina Smekens is a full-time literacy consultant who 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 is constantly developing new strategies for helping teachers to meet the demands of today's College and Career-Ready Standards. She and her associates share those strategies with teachers across the United States and beyond through on-site professional development, regional seminars, and an always-growing pool of print, digital, and video resources.

### A PRESENTER

Kristina has a gift for making the complex seem simple—for showing teachers how to meet the needs of readers and writers by bridging the gap between education research and practical, classroom-tested strategies that work. When she presents at state and national conferences, teachers flock to her sessions because they know Kristina will share strategies they can use in their own classrooms the very next day.

But beyond providing teachers with practical classroom techniques, Kristina is also a master at giving educators the motivation and encouragement they need to return to their classrooms with confidence and excitement to execute change. To stay connected, Kristina sends out a weekly newsletter, "Big Ideas." Thousands of teachers watch their email each Tuesday for it to arrive.

### AN AUTHOR

Well known for offering innovative ideas, Kristina has created more than 50 "Smekens Originals," a compilation of books, guides, and classroom tools designed to help teachers implement best-practice literacy strategies. Among the most popular of these resources are her best-selling books, *Launching the Writer's Workshop: Grades K-2* and *Grades 3-12*. Other popular publications include *The Trait Mate: 6-Traits Starter Lessons*, *Connecting Comprehension*



& Composition, *Sing & Comprehend*, *Close Reading Questions for Literature*, *Close Reading Questions for Informational Text*, *Trait Trackers*, and *Serving Up Synthesis*. Additionally, Kristina is the author of *Trait-Based Writing: Lessons and Activities* (Scholastic, 2009).

### A CRAFTER

Beyond books and physical teacher tools, Kristina has also created a library of on-demand professional learning videos that are utilized by teachers around the world. With topics ranging from "Building Kid-Friendly Writing Rubrics" to "Achieving a Close Reading," each of Kristina's "webPD" videos uses a seminar-style format to capture her energy and enthusiasm while conveying her teacher-friendly ideas.

### BACKGROUND

Kristina earned her BA in English and education at Michigan State University. Prior to her full-time consulting career, she was an accomplished high school English and journalism teacher in Michigan and Indiana. A leader in state and national scholastic journalism endeavors, Kristina authored a journalism textbook and teachers' guide for Walsworth Publishing in 2002.

Over the years, she has been blessed to work and learn with hundreds of schools and thousands of teachers throughout the Midwest. She was awarded the Excellence in Reading Award by the Indiana State Reading Association in 2013 for her contributions to literacy in Indiana.

Kristina lives in Warren, Indiana with her husband and business partner Brady, their three teenage children, and a rambunctious family dog named Buddy.

*"Kristina just takes the guess work out of everything to make it ALL make sense!"*

**Nicki King**, teacher, Union Furnace Elementary, Logan, OH

*"Oh. My. Goodness. Kristina is an amazing and entertaining presenter! Her energy is SO motivating and inspirational! Loved it ALL!"*

**Staci Rooze**, teacher at Wea Ridge Middle School, Lafayette, IN

*"Kristina was fantastic! I learned new and exciting strategies to improve student writing."*

**Jenae McKnight**, instructional coach, Lake Ridge New Tech Schools, Gary, IN

*"I feel more prepared to dig deeper into skills that will help my students perform better on state testing. These skills will also help my students become better reading and writers."*

**Megan Joseph**, teacher at Warren Middle School, Vincent, OH

*"Kristina covered every topic I needed to bring back with me. I will be sharing several takeaways with not only the reading teachers—but the science and social studies teachers. She spoke to all levels of learning. Her knowledge of the material and the standards was spot on."*

**Julie Wandrie**, teacher at Saint Paul Lutheran School, Westlake, OH

*"After 33 years of teaching, I still am drawn back into Kristina's workshops because they are research-based, standards-focused, and very interactive."*

**Katie Cadle**, teacher, Paoli Community Schools, Paoli, IN

# Launching the Writer's Workshop: Grades K-2

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

District/Diocese: \_\_\_\_\_

School name: \_\_\_\_\_

School address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

School phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**WEBCADEMY WORKSHOP FEE:** Online workshop sharing not allowed.

One person  Team of 3+ **More than 15?**  
**\$140** **\$126** Call us at (888) 376-0448  
 per person for custom pricing.

**PAYMENT:**

Purchase Order attached (# \_\_\_\_\_ ) **TOTAL PURCHASE AMOUNT:** \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTRANTS: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE YOU WOULD LIKE TO START? \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

## TERMS OF USE

We encourage enrolled participants to take advantage of all the features webAcademy has to offer. In doing so, participants agree to the following terms of use:

- 1 Login information and video access may NOT be shared with any individual who is not enrolled in the online workshop.
- 2 Unauthorized sharing of login access will result in a non-refundable cancellation of any and all active online workshops.
- 3 Subscribers are not permitted to reprint, republish, repost or otherwise distribute any content or images from an online workshop.

## MUST AGREE & SIGN

\_\_\_\_\_  
 By checking & signing, you agree with the **Terms of Use**.

**CHOOSE A VIEWING OPTION:**

**Flexible View**  
 No completion certificates are awarded, but you have the flexibility to jump ahead in the video.

**Verified View**  
 A completion certificate is available for download at the end of the online workshop video, but you do not have the flexibility to jump ahead.

**WHO'S VIEWING THIS WORKSHOP?** To register more than 5, please submit this form with an Excel file that contains a list of the registrants' names and email addresses to [webacademy@smekenseducation.com](mailto:webacademy@smekenseducation.com).

Name	Email
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**TO ENROLL:**

FAX THIS FORM – with a school purchase order to **888-376-0489**  
 or EMAIL THIS FORM – with a school purchase order to [webacademy@smekenseducation.com](mailto:webacademy@smekenseducation.com)

## Group Registration Process

To register a group of teachers, complete the form on this page and fax it with a purchase order to webAcademy at 888-376-0489. After a purchase order is received, a professional development specialist will email each registrant with instructions for accessing the online workshop.

## Satisfaction Guarantee

Every online workshop comes with a 100% money-back guarantee. If you aren't satisfied, contact Brady Smekens within the first 10 days of your purchase.

## Secret Site Digital Resources

Registrants receive lifetime access to a password-protected web page that contains a treasure trove of lessons, videos, and other resources for implementation.

