



# Writing After a Close Reading

SIMPLE & EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE ACHIEVEMENT IN READING & WRITING

## Online Workshop Overview

After reading a complex text, students need to do something with what they learned. More than simply summarizing the text, students need to analyze and even argue the author's ideas in writing.

## Workshop Topics

- Provide opportunities for appropriately rigorous tasks that include brief constructed responses and longer extended responses.
- Identify complex tasks that target a variety of purposes, including persuasive, argumentative, informative, and narrative writing.
- Reiterate the importance of juggling multiple texts, including print, digital, video, and visual texts.
- Target multiple ways for students to remember key details and record their inferences while reading, so they can reference that evidence after reading.
- Acquire strategies for teaching students to make text-to-text connections in order to draw comparisons and synthesize multiple ideas.

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

- ▶ Assemble text sets (2-4 texts) on a common concept or theme to make new and significant after-reading inferences.
- ▶ Create various after-reading tasks that require evidence-based responses.
- ▶ Show students how to use their during-reading annotations to support their after-reading writing.
- ▶ Teach students how to take notes and cite evidence from videos and visuals.



*"Kristina is clearly an expert in the field of reading & writing in education. (She) offers clear, relatable, & achievable goals for implementation. The 'secret' website is also an invaluable resource. I have a step-by-step guide to implementing close reading & writing after close reading. I can get started right away!"*

**Nicole Scurlock,**  
teacher at Knightstown High School,  
Knightstown, IN

*"It has changed the way I'm going to attack writing in my classes. More collaboration. More frequency. Fewer drafts. Fewer grades."*

**Libby Shogren,**  
teacher at Wauconda Community High School, Wauconda, IL

## WORKSHOP OUTLINE

### Complex Tasks

- Write about reading
- Choose among three tasks
- Scaffold writing experiences

### Literary Analysis Task

- Draft the after-reading writing task
- Track development, relationships, & perspectives
- Compare and evaluate texts

### Narrative Writing Task

- Draft the after-reading writing task
- Grasp plot exposition
- Maintain characterization

### Research Writing Task

- Draft the after-reading writing task
- Make comparisons across texts
- Synthesize and argue a perspective

### Total time to complete:

5-6 hours; (allotted time to complete the online workshop: 60 days)

### Instructor:

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

# “Thank you for being a **reliable & current** source of best practice!”

Angela Decker, teacher at Delta Middle School, Muncie, IN

## Who benefits?

- Teachers Grades 2-12
- Literacy Coaches
- Literacy Coordinators
- Title I Teachers & Coordinators
- ELL Teachers & Coordinators
- High-Ability Teachers
- Principals & Assistant Principals
- Curriculum Directors

## Direct Ties to Standards

The strategies shared during this webAcademy online workshop target the reading and writing standards outlined within the College & Career-Ready Standards.



## What others say about Kristina's workshops

“Great workshop with lots of concrete examples that I can go back and use tomorrow. Good for beginning and veteran teachers.” **Leah Taylor**, teacher at Gosport Elementary School, Gosport, IN

“Kristina was so entertaining. She spoke to all levels of learning. Her knowledge of the material and the standards was spot on. I will be recommending her workshops to fellow educators.” **Julie Wandrie**, teacher at Saint Paul Lutheran School, Westlake, OH

## Why learn more about close reading?

### 1. Close reading is key to college and career readiness.

Research shows that even our brightest students are struggling with college-level courses because they lack the skills to read and understand complex text. Kristina will provide practical ways to engage students in close reading so that they have the skills to ultimately tackle any complex text independently.

### 2. Planning and facilitating a close reading needs to be intentional.

Achieving a close reading of complex text is largely about asking the right questions at the right time. Kristina will guide teachers to first generate questions that determine what the text says and culminate with questions that determine why the text matters.

### 3. Writing in response to text improves comprehension.

Writing a brief constructed response or a coherent extended response to complex text is an important facet of the close-reading process. Kristina will share dozens of after-reading writing prompts that require students to demonstrate a deep understanding of the text.

## Top questions teachers ask about . . .

### Writing after a close reading

- ▶ What are the different types of writing tasks that follow a close-reading experience?
- ▶ How do I teach students to incorporate both textual evidence and an explanation of how their evidence supports their thinking?
- ▶ Where can I find writing prompts that I can customize to fit my unique texts but that also mirror the tasks students will face on state and national standardized assessments?
- ▶ What do “good” written responses look and sound like? Where can I find examples?

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

## Continuing Education Credit

With prior approval from the registrant's school district, participants may receive credit for 5 hours of professional development for this webAcademy online workshop. Attendees who view each of the workshop videos in their entirety may download a 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 each of the videos in a webAcademy workshop are eligible to pursue 1, 2, or 3 nationally-accredited graduate-level semester units. 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

# Writing After a Close Reading

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

One person **\$139**

Team of 3+ **\$124** per person

**More than 15?**  
Call us at (888) 376-0448 for custom pricing.

**PAYMENT:**

Purchase Order attached (# \_\_\_\_\_ )

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

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

**TOTAL PURCHASE AMOUNT:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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

**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)

## 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**.

## 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.

