



VIRTUAL-INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

Essential Lessons to Accelerate Student Writing

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

During a year when accelerated learning is the goal, it's important to prioritize writing instruction so that the most essential K-12 skills are the foundation of a writing curriculum. This requires more than just showing strong examples and assigning writing topics. Students need explicit, skill-based instruction that demonstrates how to incorporate the most critical, genre-specific ingredients into their own first-draft writings.

Using the college and career-ready writing standards as the foundation, this workshop for K-12 teachers will identify the core writing skills to teach per unit.

Target the essential skills per writing unit

PART 1: Prioritize the type of “info” that must be incorporated in informative writings. Learn how to provide instruction so students can:

- Embed content, text evidence, and topic-specific vocabulary accurately.
- Explain and elaborate on information stated.

PART 2: Target the different genres of informative writing and their various characteristics. Teach students to know how to:

- Recognize the different ways to organize information depending on the writing purpose or prompt.
- Move beyond predictable introductions and summary conclusions.

PART 3: Craft instruction for powerful persuasives and sophisticated arguments appropriate for primary, intermediate, and secondary classrooms. Teach students how to:

- Align with a side based on positional proof—rather than personal preference.
- Identify reasons to support a position with evidence and elaboration.

PART 4: Target the non-negotiables of any narrative writing unit. Whether students write in pictures or in paragraphs, they need instruction that:

- Prioritizes the two *required* elements of every story—a problem and a solution.
- Reveals how to generate read-write narratives that align with the expectations of standardized tests (e.g., rewrite the story from a different character’s viewpoint).

Each session of this workshop will offer numerous lesson concepts, student writing samples, digital resources, and specific instructional points. In addition, every session will include direct connections to the 6 Traits of Writing—emphasizing the significance of the traits of ideas, organization, and conventions.

Whether you assign topics or students choose them, whether your students write multiple paragraphs or draw a single picture with letter labels, this four-part series will identify the top-tier instructional priorities to plan into any writing curriculum.

SCHEDULE

This virtual-interactive workshop will be divided into four 75-minute segments:

Part 1 — October 20, 2021	4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. ET
Part 2 — October 27, 2021	4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. ET
Part 3 — November 3, 2021	4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. ET
Part 4 — November 10, 2021	4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. ET



WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Live chat support from Kristina Smekens and her team during each of the four virtual sessions.
- A full-color downloadable handout to accompany each session.
- On-demand access to all session recordings for one year.
- Lifetime access to the workshop “secret site,” a members-only website featuring ready-to-go digital resources directly related to the workshop.
- A completion certificate acknowledging 5 hours of professional development when educators complete all four parts of this workshop series within 30 days.
- The option to pursue up to three hours of graduate-level credit for the purpose of license renewal or salary advancement. (This is available, for an additional fee, to attendees who complete this workshop within 30 days.)

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- K-5 Classroom Teachers
- 6-12 English Language Arts Teachers
- ELL Teachers
- Literacy Coaches / Coordinators
- Title I Teachers / Directors
- K-12 High-Ability Teachers
- K-12 Administrators



THREE REASONS TO ATTEND THIS VIRTUAL-INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP:

1. When it comes to instructional time, every minute counts.

Make your time count by prioritizing your writing instruction to address gaps and accelerate learning.

2. Explicit teaching gets results.

Standards and resources tell you what to teach, but in this workshop you'll learn how to teach each essential skill.

3. Strong writers perform better on standardized assessments.

Preparing students for the challenging read-write tasks they will encounter on state and national assessments requires instruction on how to convey comprehension in a written response.

Top questions teachers ask about accelerating learning in order to achieve grade-level expectations in writing:

1. What are the most essential writing lessons that my students need to learn?
2. How can I make my writing mini-lessons more effective?
3. How much instructional time should I dedicate to each unit of writing?
4. What kinds of writing products should my students be producing?
5. How can I tie my grammar instruction to my writing units?
6. How can I accelerate my students' learning in the area of writing?

Kristina provides answers to these questions and many more!

"I love how simple you made the concept of tying writing into the other subjects. It makes so much sense!"

Michelle McKinney, 4th grade teacher, Our Lady of Hungary Catholic School, South Bend, IN

"I felt lost teaching writing. I have directions now."

Holly Tilford, 1st grade teacher, Joan Martin Elementary—School City of Hobart, Hobart, IN

"My writing curriculum just got the boost it needed to be effective!"

Nicole Glacinski, 2nd grade teacher, CUSD #11, Jefferson Park School, El Paso, IL

"Excellent. Very practical advice to use with my 9th graders! I appreciate the constant application to standards."

Debra Kincaid, teacher, Clinton Central Junior-Senior High School, Michigantown, IN

"Practical—common sense—to-the-point."

Tiffany Cook, principal, Simmons Elementary School, Versailles, KY

"Kristina is a master teacher and dynamic presenter. She's organized and effective at sharing useful writing instruction tips & resources!"

Max Melgarejo, teacher, Latin School of Chicago, Chicago, IL

"Awesome, realistic, and usable information. Made me feel more confident about teaching writing! Really eye-opening! I feel like I can actually help my students."

April Firestone, teacher, Saint John's Lutheran School, Marysville, OH

"As an educator, I am BLESSED to have other teachers break writing skills down so I can understand how to teach it."

Hannah Warner, teacher, Eastwood Elementary School, New Castle, IN

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 collects questions from teachers and then, along with her colleagues, answers those questions in a bi-weekly newsletter called "Ask Smekens." Thousands of teachers watch their emails 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 and their three children.

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VIRTUAL-INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

Organization Contact Person: _____ Title: _____

Email: _____

District/Diocese: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

School phone: _____

WORKSHOP PRICING

\$169 per person

For groups of 10 or more, contact us for special pricing and arrangements.

PAYMENT:

Purchase Order attached (# _____)

Total number of registrants: _____

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 workshops@smekenseducation.com.

Name Email

TO ENROLL:

- *FAX THIS FORM* – with a school purchase order to **888-376-0489**.
- *EMAIL THIS FORM* – with a school purchase order to **workshops@smekenseducation.com**.

Satisfaction Guarantee

If you are not completely satisfied with a workshop, we will refund your entire registration fee—no questions asked.