

VIRTUAL-INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

First Day to Test Day

A road map to accelerate student learning and prepare for standardized tests.

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

If students are going to succeed on state and national ELA assessments, preparation for Test Day needs to begin on the first day. By following a road map of instruction rooted in explicit teaching of priority standards, educators can accelerate learning and move students toward test success.

During this virtual-interactive workshop, educators from grades 3-12 will learn how to craft a yearlong scaffold of instruction that intertwines reading and writing subskills so that students achieve true depth of knowledge before Test Day arrives.

Begin with the end in mind

PART 1: Target the thinking that students must execute when reading any text.

- Demystify the inference process in order to answer comprehension questions about complex texts.
- Attack questions with test-taking tips to support finding the “best” and “most likely” answers.

PART 2: Reveal to students that their thinking must also be communicated in writing.

- Define the ingredients to a strong constructed response.
- Propel students beyond simply stating evidence to explaining it.

PART 3: Advance students beyond making single-text inferences to generating multi-text syntheses.

- Identify a step-by-step process for reading and annotating multiple texts in one sitting.
- Dissect how readers integrate ideas learned from multiple sources to generate a new thought or synthesis.

PART 4: Raise the rigor to reading multiple texts and composing extended responses—all in one sitting.

- Provide explicit instruction on academic vocabulary to support students in decoding and responding to prompts.
- Build on the students’ knowledge of short constructed responses to generate long, extended responses.

Students need a full year to develop the skills required to complete the complex tasks on today’s read-write assessments. Each session of this workshop will offer numerous lesson concepts, classroom examples, digital resources, and specific teaching points. In addition, there will be tips shared that improve students’ digital literacy skills—including reading off a screen and composing on a screen.

To get kids Test-Day ready, teachers must start immediately, plan intentionally, and teach explicitly. This workshop will provide the tools necessary to do just that.

SCHEDULE

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

Part 1 — August 25, 2021	4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. ET
Part 2 — September 1, 2021	4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. ET
Part 3 — September 8, 2021	4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. ET
Part 4 — September 15, 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 workshop 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?

- 3-12 English Language Arts Teachers
- 6-12 Content-Area Teachers
- Literacy Coaches / Coordinators
- Title I Teachers / Directors
- ELL Teachers
- Special Education Teachers
- K-12 High-Ability Teachers
- K-12 Administrators



THREE REASONS TO ATTEND THIS VIRTUAL-INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP:

1. High-stakes testing affects everyone.

How students perform on standardized reading and writing tests has far-reaching implications for students, teachers, and schools. Insights into the requirements for test success are needed now more than ever before.

2. Success on standardized tests is only part of the goal.

With mastery of academic standards as the ultimate goal, targeted and intentional preparation for the state assessment helps students improve as readers and writers for the test and beyond.

3. Success on the test requires explicit instruction.

Kristina Smekens will share strategies to embed rigorous reading and writing instruction into your yearlong curriculum so that students are equipped with the most essential literacy skills.

Top questions teachers ask about accelerating learning in preparation for standardized tests:

1. What's different about the testing expectations under the new standards than those assessments administered previously?
2. How can I intentionally prepare students for the state assessment without simply “teaching to the test”?
3. At the beginning of the school year, which skills should I teach first?
4. How should I prioritize my yearlong planning and ensure my accelerated instruction goes in a logical order?
5. Beyond the English/language arts curriculum, what can be done in the content areas to cultivate critical reading and writing skills?

Kristina provides answers to these questions and many more!



"Thank you for listening to educators, knowing what is needed for testing, but in the end—what makes for better readers, writers, & thinkers."

Tricia Stanley, principal,
Granville Wells Elementary School,
Jamestown, IN

"I feel so much more confident in my ability to prepare my students for the rigorous reading & writing standards of today and tomorrow!"

Kristy Worthington,
St. Louis de Montfort Catholic
School, Fishers, IN

"I continue to be amazed by Smekens workshops. Thank you for all of the wonderful information and resources! It will help me in preparing my students for their End-of-Course tests!"

Melissa Watts, teacher, Logan
High School, Logan, OH

"I loved that it was virtual. I always feel so refreshed and come out with so many great ideas after a Smekens conference. Thank you!"

Allison Slusher, teacher, New
Haven Primary School - New
Haven, IN

"I always love your conferences, mostly because they are interactive and you all just make people feel comfortable and engaged. I was blown away with the virtual concept and how 'normal' it felt. I loved that they were prerecorded so that the presenter could be engaged in the chat."

Kristan Robertson, instructional
coach, Huber Ridge Elementary
School, Westerville, OH

"Informative and easily accessible information to help with future planning and instruction!"

Sarah Boehme, teacher, Pawnee
Elementary School, Pawnee, IL

"Kristina is the QUEEN of making the invisible VISIBLE, and, more importantly, CONCRETE. She concretely teaches it to me so that I can teach my kids."

Heidi Tornquist, teacher, Elm Road
Elementary School, Mishawaka, 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.

First Day to Test Day

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.

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Satisfaction Guarantee

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