

Winter Post Script 2016

The Collins Writing Exchange

Ideas, Tips, and Resources on Writing from [Collins Education Associates](#)

A New, Light Version of Our Newsletter

What's a "Post Script" Edition?

Reader feedback requested more frequent, occasionally briefer issues of the *Exchange* newsletter that focus on our most popular articles such as ready-to-use writing assignments. As a result, we are introducing a light version called Post Script that will be emailed between our six regular issues. We hope you enjoy it!

Featured Writing Assignment

Informative Writing: Weather Journals, Unit Reflections, and More

Asking students to write about what they are experiencing and what they are learning is critically important. It builds essential learning skills, such as observing, reflecting, and interpreting. Below are links to three assignments that do just that.

For primary grade students there is a six week task observing weather to see if Punxsutawney Phil's prediction about spring is true. For upper elementary, middle, and high school students there are opportunities to summarize and reflect upon recent content learning.

Grades K-3:

[Keeping a Groundhog Day Weather Journal](#)

Grades 4-12:

[Summarizing Important Information](#)

[End of Unit Reflection](#)

Special Note:

Would you like to see a Collins Associate demonstrate these and other lessons in your school's classrooms? See the [In-District Consulting and Coaching](#) page of our website.

Writing in Science

Misconceptions about Next Generation Science Standards Addressed

For the last five years the Common Core Standards have emphasized the importance of writing as an important aspect of communicating what is learned about science. But there are still lingering misconceptions about the Next Generation Science Standards, released in 2013.

Kenneth Huff, a New York middle school science teacher, has written a helpful article, "Addressing Three Common Myths About the *Next Generation Science Standards*," for the January 2016 issue of *Science and Children*. Huff's article clarifies issues related to elementary, middle, and high school science instruction. [Read the article](#) to see how you can improve your students' science literacy.

Convention Wisdom

Avoid Comma Oversights with the Acronym LUCI

Missing and unnecessary commas still plague student writing. One way to make your students mindful of commonly omitted commas is with the acronym LUCI (pronounced like *Lucy*): **l**ists, **u**nnecessary elements, **c**oordinating conjunctions, and **i**ntroductory elements.

To help your students avoid these common oversights, download Tip Sheets from our *Essential Conventions Teacher Resource Guide*. The Tip Sheets for [upper elementary and middle school](#) and [high school](#) explain the rules related to LUCI and provide examples for each.

Special Note:

Go to our [web store](#) and see all of our *Essential Conventions* resources: Check Mate, classroom posters, and Teacher Resource Guides.



Quick Links

Popular Links on Our Website



- [Free Resources](#)
- [Upcoming Events and Workshops](#)
- [Focus Correction Areas \(FCAs\)](#)
- [Collins Web Store](#)
- [School District Profiles \(User Results\)](#)

About Our Newsletter

Helpful Resources for Busy Educators

We truly appreciate your interest in our e-newsletter and hope you will share it with others. Please forward *The Collins Writing Exchange* to your colleagues who

might be interested.

For those of you who had this issue forwarded to you, [join our mailing list](#) and receive future issues directly. *The Exchange* is issued six times a year plus occasional *Post Scripts* like this one.

Missed a previous issue? Read it now.

[Winter 2016](#) ~ [Fall 2015](#) ~ [Back-to-School 2015](#) ~ [Summer 2015](#) ~ [Spring 2015](#)
~ [Late Winter 2015](#) ~ [Winter 2014](#) ~ [Fall 2014](#) ~ [August-September 2014](#) ~
[Spring/Summer 2014](#)

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