

October 2016

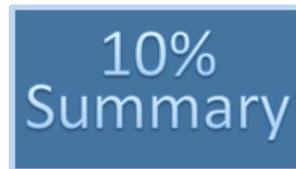
The Collins Writing Exchange

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

Featured Writing Assignment

The Ten Percent Summary: The Perfect Assignment?

John Collins's Ten Percent Summary is a powerful assignment that's used widely in all grades and disciplines. Students are challenged to read an article and then distill it down to roughly 10% of the original article length.



Teachers love it because it helps students develop two essential skills: comprehending complex text and writing arguments supported by text evidence. As John says, "It may not be the perfect writing assignment, but when I'm trying to teach students how to be better readers and writers, I think it comes pretty close."

Use the resources below to get your students reading challenging articles and writing Ten Percent Summary assignments.

- Dr. John Collins's *EL Online* article "[Summarize to Get the Gist](#)"
- Ten Percent Summary [assignment](#)
- Two-page [graphic organizer](#) to guide your students
- Annotated free list of [online sources of articles](#) to summarize (all grades)

Special Note:

As you plan ahead for the year, consider having a Collins Associate demonstrate the Ten Percent Summary or other lessons in your school's classrooms. Contact us at info@collinsed.com or at 1-800-932-4477.

Strategies That Work

Oral Reading Strategy Works for All Writers



Getting students to carefully and systematically review their own drafts remains a challenge for teachers. Fortunately, the most effective technique for self-editing is deceptively simple: *Read the draft out loud.*

Oral reading, a core strategy of the Collins Writing Program, is encouraged for all compositions because it helps the author "hear" how their writing will sound to a reader. To introduce this useful strategy to your students, see Collins Associate Gary Chadwell's recent [blog post](#), "Is Oral Reading Still the Best Way to Check Your Work?"

Convention Wisdom

One-Minute Writing Clinic: Capital Offenses

Capitalization rules like capitalizing the first words of sentences, names, and the pronoun *I* are among the first conventions taught to young writers. Yet these and other more subtle rules continue to vex writers of all ages.

Take a look at the sentences below, and see if you can find the eight capitalization problems.

Will it be President Clinton or president Trump? Voters across the country, from new England across the midwest to the West coast, are considering the potential candidates to occupy our White House. Organizations like local League Of Women Voters will be active in encouraging voters to exercise their right to vote. Candidates will actively seek endorsements from newspapers like *The Wall Street Journal* and from organizations like the National Education association in hopes of becoming the ceo of america.

Did you find all eight? See our [answer key](#) to check on how you did. You can download a PDF from our Check Mate student folder that will remind your students of key capitalization conventions.

- [Level P \(grades 2-3\)](#)
- [Level A \(grades 4-6\)](#)
- [Level B \(grades 6-9\)](#)
- [Level C \(grades 9-12\)](#)

Special Note:

For more tips on navigating the rules of writing, see *Check Mate*, the student guide for capitalization and other essential conventions. Or order the *Essential Conventions* Teacher Resource Guide (\$25 for the PDF version; \$30 for the hard copy) from our web store. You can also [download free Samplers](#) of each *Essential Conventions* Teacher Resource Guide to try with your students.

Quick Links

A Letter to Parents About Collins Writing Is Essential

One of the most effective ways to encourage support at home for your students is to let parents know about the writing strategies being used in the classroom. We have ready-to-use letters for [elementary](#) and [secondary](#) students' parents on our website that you can send home or post on your website.

Upcoming Events

John Collins in Pennsylvania, Kristine Gibson in Pennsylvania and New Jersey



<i>Date</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Presenter</i>	<i>Grades</i>	<i>Location</i>
October 24, 2016	Introduction to Collins Writing Details Join Wait List	John Collins	4-12	Altoona, PA
October 25, 2016	Writing Informative Text with a Focus on TDA Details Join Wait List	John Collins	4-12	Altoona, PA
October 26, 2016	Argumentative Writing Details Join Wait List	John Collins	4-12	Altoona, PA
November 2, 2016	Introduction to Collins Writing	John Collins	4-12	West Decatur, PA
November 15, 2016	Cross-Curricular Literacy Details Register	Kristine Gibson	3-8	New Providence, NJ
November 17, 2016	Opinion and Argument Writing	John Collins	4-12	Lancaster, PA
November 17, 2016	Introduction to Collins Writing	Kristine Gibson	K-3	West Decatur, PA
November 18, 2016	Developing a Strong Foundation of Writing Skills	Kristine Gibson	K-3	Altoona, PA
December 8, 2016	Math + Writing = A Formula for Success	Kristine Gibson	3-8	East Windsor, NJ

[View more training events here.](#)

New offerings are added regularly, so if you don't see something in your area, check back soon.

Collins In-Service

Professional Development for Your Staff

Would you like to speak to a Collins Associate about offering a professional development session in your school or district? [Email](#) or call us at 800-932-4477 to learn about options and pricing or to set up a FREE phone consultation. We offer highly competitive rates and will customize the training to suit your school's needs.

Institutes

Stretch Your PD Dollars!

Host a [Collins Institute](#) in your school or district and open it up to outside participation to underwrite some or all of the costs of the workshop.

WHY OFFER A COLLINS WRITING PROGRAM INSTITUTE?

To earn **FREE TRAINING** for your school or district!

[Click to Learn More!](#)

About Our Newsletter

Helpful Resources for Busy Educators

Our goal is to make our newsletter a useful link to ideas, research, and resources. We hope you will share it with other educators. 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.

Missed a previous issue? [Read it now.](#)

Misplace an Issue? Access All Editions Here

[Summer 2016](#)

[Spring 2016](#)

[View All Issues](#)

Collins Education Associates | 800-932-4477 | Fax 978-363-2212 |
info@collinsed.com | www.collinsed.com
