

January 2017

The Collins Writing Exchange

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

Early-Bird Registration Fee Extended

New Workshop: The Big Three



Dr. John Collins is introducing a powerful new workshop this month: The Big Three. Seats are still available for the remaining sessions in [Chelmsford, MA](#), [Wallingford, CT](#), and [Fort Washington, PA](#). We're waiving the late-registration fee for these three workshops. Register now and get the early-bird rate of just \$75, a savings of \$25!

The new workshop, The Big Three: Research-Based Practices That Make the Greatest Impact on Student Achievement, shows teachers how to increase student engagement and understanding of new content using these key strategies:

- The Retrieval Routine
- Ten Percent Summaries
- Compare and Contrast Grids

Teachers of grades 3 through 12 will leave this fast-paced workshop with a resource package that will allow them to use all three strategies immediately.

Featured Writing Assignment

Focus on Opinion and Argument Writing



Argument and opinion writing are not particularly complex forms of writing, but students of all ages do need practice with them. Select one of the assignments below and get a ready-to-use assignment with Focus Correction Areas (FCAs) and prewriting steps included. Note that we're including an assignment tailored especially for career and technical high school students.

- Primary (K-3): [Solving an Everyday Problem](#)
- Intermediate (3-6): [In My Opinion ... and Here's Why!](#)
- Middle School: [News with a View](#)
- High School: [It's a Must! Making Thoughtful Recommendations](#)

Career and Technical (High School): [Benefits of a Career and Technology Education](#)

Special Note:

To support your teachers' use of the program, consider having a Collins Associate demonstrate opinion and argument writing or model other lessons in your school's classrooms. To learn more [email](#) us or call us at 1-800-932-4477.

College and Career Readiness

Spotlight in Career and Technical Schools

For over two decades, Collins Education Associates has worked successfully with numerous career and technical schools. One of those schools, the Berkshire (MA) Arts and Technology Charter Public School (BART), won several state and national school improvement awards. The school identified writing as a "necessary twenty-first century skill and made the Collins Writing Program a centerpiece of their school improvement effort. Read the [BART Implementation Profile](#) detailing their outstanding successes.

In one of our focused publications, authors John Collins and Suzanne Doherty, suggest dozens of prompts and writing assignments designed specifically for career and technical school students. See a short [excerpt](#) from *Improving Writing Skills in Career and Technology High Schools*, in which they answer the questions most often asked by career and technical school teachers.

Special Note:

For information on how Collins Writing can make a difference with your career and technology students, please [email](#) us or call us at 1-800-932-4477.

Convention Wisdom

One-Minute Clinic: Tricky Capitalization Rules

Even the basics like capitalizing first words of sentences, the pronoun *I*, and names, can sometimes be challenging for students. But when we get into the more subtle rules, capitalization can get really tricky. Look at the use of capitalization rules in the sentences below. Can you identify the sentence that has no capitalization mistakes? What are the problems in the other sentences?

When my Dad told me I had an Uncle that was a high school Mathematics teacher, I was shocked.

It turns out Uncle Charles is actually Dr. Wallace, who teaches the Advanced Calculus II course for the math whizzes.

I also found out that my Uncle was the ceo of a company that does stats for MLB.

See the [answer key](#) to check on your answers. Download a PDF from our *Essential Conventions* Teacher Resource Guide with special reminders about some of the tricky capitalization rules:

- [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 Teacher Resource Guide to try with your students.

Quick Links

Opinion and Argument Focus Correction Areas

We have carefully reviewed the standards and expectations for opinion and argument writing and identified priority Focus Correction Areas (FCAs) for grades K-12. Find these helpful lists, as well as other useful resources such as symbolic FCAs for the primary grades, on our [Free Resources](#) page.

New Website

New Collins Education Associates Website

We just launched our new Collins Writing Program website. The new site features a fresh, clean look, simpler navigation, a new store, and is mobile friendly. Be sure to check it out at collinsed.com!

Upcoming Events, Featuring Dr. John Collins's New Workshop

The Big Three

Research-Based Practices That Make the Greatest Impact on Student Achievement



Date	Location	Session	Grades	Presenter
January 18, 2017	SERESC, Bedford, NH	Tell a Story About a Time ... Improving Narrative Writing	1-8	Bill Atwood
January 19, 2017	Chelmsford, MA	The Big Three	3-12	John Collins
January 20, 2017	Wallingford, CT	The Big Three	3-12	John Collins
January 25, 2017	IU #13, Lancaster, PA	Designing Curriculum-Based Writing Assignments	4-12	John Collins
January 26,	Fort Washington, PA	The Big Three	3-12	John Collins

2017				
February 6, 2017	AIU #8, Altoona, PA	Meeting the Challenge of the PA Core (Day 2)	K-3	Kristine Gibson
February 9, 2017	SERESC, Bedford, NH	Math and Science Vocabulary	2-12	Bill Atwood
February 28, 2017	MUJC, New Providence, NJ	How Did You Get That? Improving Open-Ended Responses in Mathematics Details Register	4-12	Kristine Gibson
March 2, 2017	CIU #10, West Decatur, PA	Collins Writing in the Primary Grades (Day 2)	K-3	Kristine Gibson
March 3, 2017	AIU #8, Altoona, PA	Meeting the Challenge of the PA Core (Day 3)	K-3	Kristine Gibson
March 8, 2017	IU #9, Smethport, PA	How Did You Get That? Improving Written Responses in Math	4-12	Kristine Gibson
March 15, 2017	MUJC, New Providence, NJ	More Writing ... Less Grading: A Manageable Approach to Writing Across the Curriculum Details Register	K-5	Kristine Gibson
March 22, 2017	CIU #10, West Decatur, PA	Opinion and Argument Writing	4-12	John Collins

[View more training events here.](#)

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

Collins Training

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](#) us 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 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!

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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.

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