

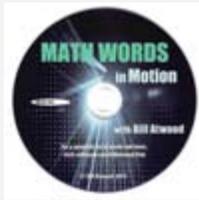
Fall 2014

The Collins Writing Exchange

Ideas, Tips, and Resources on Writing
from
Collins Education Associates

Classroom Techniques That Work

Math In Motion Motivates and Prepares Students



In his new DVD, *Math Words in Motion*, Collins Education Associate Bill Atwood demonstrates engaging and highly motivating ways to teach math vocabulary to grades K-8. His DVD shows how to build, review, and deepen understanding of more than 274 essential math vocabulary terms.

Atwood's techniques are fun, efficient, and easy to use. Most importantly, they help to build background knowledge that the Common Core standards identify as essential for students to be confident, fluent problem solvers. The techniques, which only take a few minutes of class time, work because they utilize kinesthetic, auditory, and visual techniques, three powerful ways to enhance learning.

Check out a [video clip](#) of *Math in Motion*. [Order online](#) or see the Special Offer below!

Applying Research to Everyday Teaching

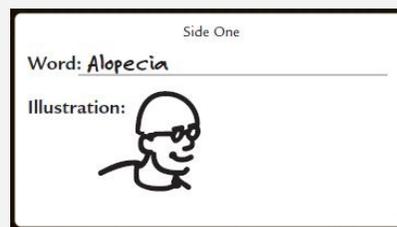
Four Learning Strategies to Use with Type Two Writing

Collins Writing Program users will take special interest in Daniel Willingham's informative article, "[Strategies That Make Learning Last](#)," in *Educational Leadership's* October issue. Willingham identifies four study strategies that can be taught and modeled in the classroom so that students use the techniques when they're studying on their own: self-explanation, distributive practice, interleaved practice, and practice testing. Willingham's four strategies will help Collins Writing users maximize the benefits of their formative assessment by helping them select content, design challenging prompts, and time the use of Type Two Writing in their classrooms.

Featured Writing Assignment

Vocabulary Cards: A Flexible Strategy for Building Technical Vocabulary

This writing task helps students build general, academic, or domain-specific vocabulary. It's built on the research of Robert Marzano and his colleagues, which emphasizes multiple encounters with words, context, and visual representations associated with a term. Developing vocabulary cards is a quick and effective writing task that develops understanding of vocabulary terms and phrases.



Vocabulary cards can be used with all ages and in any content area. [Download](#) an explanation of the task and the reproducible graphic organizer so you can get your students started right away.

Art and Thoughtful Writing

Using Art to Inspire Creative Thinking and Writing

Observe, interpret, and create!

That's the approach that Denise Cassano describes in her *Edutopia* article, "[Inspire Thoughtful Creative Writing Through Art](#)." Cassano, an art teacher, describes how she uses evocative art pieces with her students to inspire deep, thoughtful writing. Her article also suggests challenging and thought-provoking questions to guide discussion and writing exercises. Collins Writing teachers will recognize these well-designed questions as potential Type One, Type Two, and Type Three writing prompts.

Type 1: Capture Ideas

Type One writing gets ideas on paper—brainstorming. Type One is timed and requires a minimum number of items or lines. Questions and/or guesses are permitted. Evaluated with a check (✓) or minus (-). *One draft.*

Type 2: Respond Correctly

Type Two writing shows that the writer knows something about a topic or has thought about the topic. It is a correct answer to a specific question, graded as a quiz. *One draft.*

Type 3: Edit for FCAs

Type Three writing has substantive content and meets up to three specific standards called focus correction areas. It is *read out loud* and reviewed to see if the draft meets the following criteria: completes the assignment, is easy to read, and meets standards set by the focus correction areas. Revision and editing are done on the original. *One draft.*

Focus on Beginning Writers

Using Symbolic Focus Correction Areas to Guide Young Writers

Do emergent and beginning writers benefit from having focus correction areas (FCAs)? Absolutely! Kindergarten and first grade teachers love the idea of using FCAs because it gives their young writers clear goals without overwhelming them.

Until beginning writers become experienced enough to write FCAs on their papers quickly and efficiently themselves, many teachers use symbolic FCAs to set clear, age-appropriate criteria for writing. A "starter kit" of [symbolic FCAs](#) and [primary Collins paper](#) is available on the [Free Resources](#) page of the Collins website.

Convention Wisdom

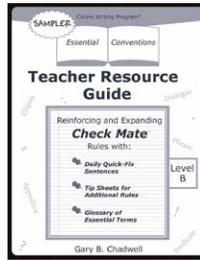
The One-Minute Writing Clinic

One of Collins's most popular resources is *Check Mate*, an easy-to-use student guide to essential conventions. We also offer a *Teacher Resource Guide* for each level of *Check Mate* that provides, among other resources, Daily Quick-Fix Sentences that allow students to practice applying writing conventions to engaging text. It's the kind of practice experts say promotes transfer: it is highly focused, is spaced over time, is varied, and has content drawn from a variety of disciplines.

Below is a middle school example. Give it a try, and see if you can find the fixes.

All of us was surprised when ms. telios said Well did you know that Forks was

the original title of stephanie meyers best-selling book twilight (1 sentence/13 fixes)



Check your answers by downloading the *Essential Conventions Teacher Resource Guide Sampler B*. Look at the Extended Passage exercise for Daily Quick-Fix Sentence Set 16. Try this and other exercises with your students.

Quick Links

Free Daily Quick-Fix Sentences

Download these free PDF files, from our *Essential Conventions Teacher Resource Guide Samplers* to introduce new, ready-to-use lessons to your students:

[Primary](#) [Upper Elementary](#) [Middle](#) [High](#)

Do you have a link to a great writing resource that you'd like to share in the next edition of *The Collins Writing Exchange*? [Email](#) it to us and we'll consider it for inclusion here.

Upcoming Events

View the Schedule, Plan a Session

Collins workshops and institutes are offered at various sites across the country; check the [schedule](#) for upcoming sessions. New offerings are added weekly, so if you don't see something in your area, check back again soon. And don't forget to take advantage of early registration discounts at a hotel workshop in your area!

Would you like to speak with a Collins Associate about how to integrate Collins Writing into your school or district? Call us at 800-932-4477 to learn about professional development options and pricing and to set up a FREE phone consultation with a Collins Associate. We will customize the training to suit your needs!

About Our Newsletter

Helpful Resources for Busy Educators

Thank you for your positive feedback on our newsletter both by [email](#) and in our workshops. As always, we welcome your suggestions and requests for future issues.

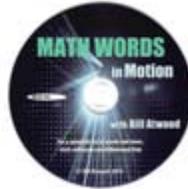
For those of you who had this issue of *The Collins Writing Exchange* forwarded to you by a colleague, [join our mailing list](#) and receive future issues directly. The *Exchange* is issued six times a year.

Get Your Kids Moving with the New *Math Words in Motion* DVD

Buy 3, Get 1 Free

For every three DVDs you order at the introductory price of \$15, you'll receive an additional one free.

A dynamic, kinesthetic approach to teaching over 274 critical math vocabulary words in grades K-8. *Math Words in Motion* teaches students a unique motion for each math term, so they learn them quicker and remember them longer.



[Preview](#) the DVD.

[Download](#) the math vocabulary list.

[Buy](#) the DVD.

Offer Expires 11/30/2014.

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