

Summer 2015

# The Collins Writing Exchange

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

## *Classroom Techniques That Work*

### Three Great Type One Assignments

Frequent formative evaluation is a powerful and effective teaching strategy. Many teachers make regular use of Type Two writing for that reason. But John Collins suggests that we should not overlook the power of well-crafted Type One writing prompts to accomplish the same goals.

Collins identified three of his favorite Type One assignments that can be used before, during, and after a unit of instruction in a recent blog post "[Can Type One Writing Prompts be Used for Formative Assessment?](#)" Be sure to click on the *Three Great Type One Assignments* link at the end of the post to download the detailed descriptions of the assignments.



Dr. Collins

## *Writing in Science*

### Using the Claim-Evidence-Reasoning Model for Lab Reports

"What do I write?" That's a common question students ask as they approach the heart of their laboratory report: the discussion section. Despite having a hypothesis and results from the lab procedures, many students are uncertain about what to write.

**Laboratory Discussion and Conclusion:  
Claim, Evidence, Reasoning  
by Dr. Judith Sumner**

According to Collins Associate Dr. Judith Sumner, this is a terrific opportunity for science teachers to reinforce the argument writing strategies their students are using in other classes. Sumner, an author and national science consultant, advises students, "Revisit the hypothesis, look at the evidence, and ask: Does it support the hypothesis?" To aid students with their writing, Sumner has compiled helpful sentence [templates](#) for each aspect of this claim-evidence-reasoning model.

## *Working with English Language Learners*

New ELL Resource Recommends Collins Writing

Dr. Wayne E. Wright has just published the second edition of *Foundations for Teaching English Language Learners: Research, Theory, Policy, and Practice* (Caslon Publishing). In this valuable resource he focuses on how English language learners (ELLs) learn a second language and how teachers can maximize their students' comprehension of new content.

In the writing-across-the-curriculum chapter of his book, Wright cites the Collins Five Types of Writing approach as a valuable tool for working with ELLs. [Preview](#) the first chapter of this helpful guide.

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## Summer Reading for Teachers

### Catching Up on Articles and Books

Summer is traditionally a time when busy teachers "sharpen the saw" and catch up on professional reading that was pushed aside during the hectic school year. We polled Collins Associates for "must reads" for teachers using the Collins Writing Program. See our [suggested list](#) of articles and books, including John Collins's favorites, Bill Atwood's math-related suggestion, Judith Sumner's science recommendations, and many more.



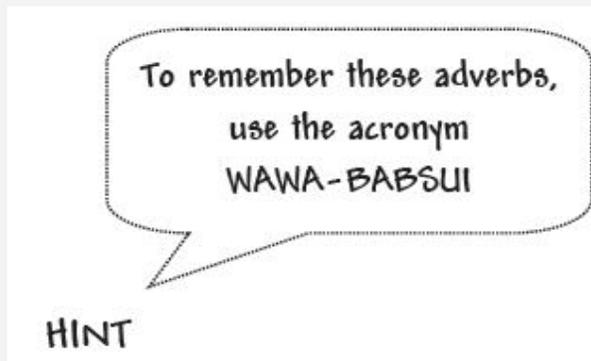
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## Convention Wisdom

### Use WAWA-BABSUI to Help Writers Avoid a Common Mistake

According to The Top Twenty, a [study](#) of common writing mistakes made by college freshmen, using the wrong word is the most common mistake. Number two on the list is not using a comma after an introductory phrase or element (e.g., "If you must know, missing documentation is third on the list."). Many introductory elements are adverbial clauses that start with an adverb (like *if* in the previous sentence).

In Collins's *Essential Conventions Teacher Resource Guide*, students are introduced to the acronym WAWA-BABSUI to help them remember common adverbs used in introductory phrases. *When* is one of the adverbs (the first *W* in WAWA-BABSUI), and you already know that *if* is another (the *I*). Can you figure out the others? Check your answer and get a reproducible Tip Sheet for your students in [middle school](#) or [high school](#).



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## Quick Links

### Free, Ready-to-Use Resources

Without the pressing concern for next-day lesson plans, summer often affords educators a few minutes to look at bigger-picture issues. Scroll through the Collins [Free Resources](#) to view national assessment test samples we have compiled for both English/language arts and math. You can review samples for ACT, PARCC, and Smarter Balanced as you begin to think about your instructional plans for next year.

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## Upcoming Events

## View Our Schedule, Plan a Session

With a variety of public workshops and institutes scheduled, Collins Associates have a busy summer and fall ahead. Between June and October, there are sessions slated across the country. View the [schedule](#) for upcoming events.

New offerings are added regularly, so if you don't see something in your area, check back soon. Remember that you can host a Collins [Institute](#) in your district, open it up to outside participation, and underwrite some or all of the costs of the workshop for your teachers.

Would you like to speak to a Collins Associate about offering a Collins 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 with a Collins Associate. We offer highly competitive rates and will customize the training to suit your school's needs!



## About Our Newsletter

### Helpful Resources for Busy Educators

The number of subscribers to *The Collins Writing Exchange* has increased significantly this school year. We truly appreciate your interest and support. 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.

Missed a previous issue? Read it now.

[Spring 2015](#)

[Late Winter 2015](#)

[Winter 2014](#)

[Fall 2014](#)

[August/September 2014](#)

[Spring/Summer 2014](#)

Offer  
Ends  
June  
30!

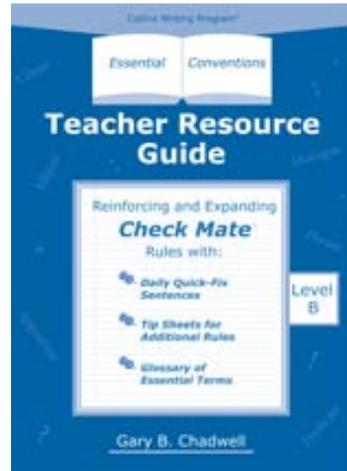
Purchase a PRINT VERSION of the Teacher Resource Guide now through June 30, 2015, and get a classroom poster with

## Buy a Teacher Resource Guide and Get a Free Editing Symbols Poster

Help students become competent editors by using *Essential Conventions* Teacher Resource Guides (TRG) in your classroom. Each TRG contains Daily Quick-Fix Sentences, Tip Sheets, and a Glossary of Essential Terms for high-utility writing conventions.

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