

# Collins Writing Exchange

Practical Ideas, Tips, and Resources for Improving Learning Through Writing

## A NOTE TO OUR READERS

### Jump into Writing!

***"Start writing, no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on."***

American Novelist Louis L'Amour

There's no need to "wait until students are ready" to start your year of writing. After all, the only way to improve writing is to...well...*write*! If you're not heavily into content yet right out of the gate, there are plenty of ways to use writing to kick off other "beginning of the year" activities. Use writing to get to know your students, to brainstorm classroom rules, to review routines, to get kids excited about new content, and to establish student-teacher connections.

Need some ideas for incorporating writing right away? Check out these tried-and-true start-of-year assignments:

#### **Great Type Ones to Start the Year**

[View Now](#)

Type One writing is perfect for building students' confidence as writers and especially important in establishing writing as a norm in your classroom.

#### **Ten Great Type**

These go-to Type Two prompts can be used across



## Twos

[View Now](#)

### Who's Who Mystery Classmate

[Grades K-2](#)  
[Grades 3-5](#)  
[Grades 6-8](#)  
[Grades 9-12](#)

curriculum areas to review and reinforce content—and they can be used over and over again throughout the year!

Help students get to know each other, build social connections, and have fun writing with this short, interactive [Type Three](#).

**Who's Who? Mystery Classmate**  
*Making Social Connections Through Writing*

## TIPS TO START THE YEAR

# The Power of Habits

***"Goals are good for setting a direction, but systems are best for making progress."***

James Clear

*Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to  
Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones*

Start the year by building a culture of thinking and writing in your classroom and reap the benefits all year long. Plan for success by establishing routines early on and sticking with them. Here are three of our favorites:

### ROUTINE

## 1

Establish a system for using Type One and Type Two writing quickly and easily. Consider setting up student notebooks (digital or paper) that can be readily accessed when a quickwrite opportunity arises!

### ROUTINE

## 2

Incorporate the groundbreaking [Retrieval Routine](#) into your weekly lesson plans. Use Make a Question Monday, Take It Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, and Throwback Thursday to embed study habits, improve content retention, and empower lifelong learners.

### ROUTINE

## 3

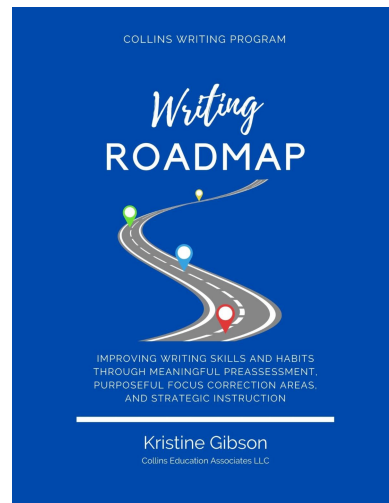
Post the [suggested paper heading](#) for Type Three writing and download our pre-formatted [Focus Correction Area \(FCA\)](#) paper for your grade.

[Kindergarten Primary](#)  
[Grades 3-12](#)

[Click Here for the Full List of Tips](#)

## FEATURED RESOURCE

# *Writing Roadmap*—Spiral-Bound Print Version Now Available!



One of the biggest challenges for writing teachers is knowing where to start. Students come to us with a wide range of skills and struggles, and every class is different.

***Writing Roadmap* includes everything teachers need to quickly diagnose student writing skills and habits and plan purposeful assignments and instruction for the entire school year.**

### ***Writing Roadmap* includes:**

- Ready-to-use preassessment prompts
- Helpful tools and checklists for evaluating the student writing habits that most contribute to writing success
- Diagnostic Writing Rubrics and class checklists for scoring student writing and tracking student strengths and needs
- Grade-specific FCAs aligned directly to the Diagnostic Writing Rubric and tips for building key writing habits
- 16 authentic student writing samples and tips on how to use them in your daily instruction to provide models of exemplary writing, highlight common writing problems, and build revising and editing skills

Watch the short *Writing Roadmap* [overview video](#) with author Kristine Gibson. Or, [download the PDF](#) of the Preview booklet.



## QUICK LINKS

**NEW! Retrieval Routine**

**An easy-to-implement, 4-step routine that establishes good academic habits, builds classroom stamina, and improves learning.**

**Essential Conventions**

**Check Mate™ and other resources to tackle the rules of writing that are teachers' biggest pet peeves!**

**Check Your Collins IQ**

**Try a sample of our quick self-assessment survey to review Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced Collins implementation strategies.**

**Free Resources**

**Ready-to-use Type Threes, Focus Correction Area lists, graphic organizers, and more!**

**PD Options**

**Everything you need to know about our PD options, workshops, institutes, and courses.**

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