



Helping School Leaders Foster a Culture of Writing

Tip #2: Hallway Talks

In order for you to support your teachers with Collins Writing, it's important to know how teachers (and students) are doing in real-time. Finding out how well Collins Writing is being implemented in your school doesn't need to be a formal or time-consuming process. It's as easy as chatting with students as you walk through the halls. In a school where Collins Writing has become a seamless part of the culture, students will be able to answer "yes" to all of the questions below!

Tip #2

While in the hallways, ask students the following questions:

- Do your teachers assign much writing in or outside of class?
- Do you know the difference between a Type One and a Type Two assignment? Does your teacher assign these types of writing? If so, how often?
- Do you know what an FCA is?
- Does your teacher ask you to read your papers out loud so you can hear how they sound and listen for mistakes?
- Do you do peer editing (an aspect of Type Four writing)?
- Does your teacher ever correct a paper in front of the class to model what he/she is looking for and how the paper will be evaluated?
- In your ELA classes, have you ever taken a paper that you had written earlier in the year and edited it for a new skill?
- Do you think you are becoming a better writer? Why?

These quick hallway conversations will give you a sense of where Collins Writing is being used and which elements of the program are part of your building's common language.

Follow-Up with Faculty

Consider pairing your observations with a brief Type One-inspired activity at your next monthly faculty meeting, posing the following question to teachers for quickwrite and discussion:

- If I surveyed your students tomorrow, which of the following aspects of Collins Writing (drawn from the list above) would they be most familiar with and which would they be least likely to recognize? Underline one activity that you would like to incorporate more frequently into your practice.

By keeping up dialogue about Collins Writing, you encourage broader levels of implementation and invite questions about how to improve writing practices.