



Collins Education Associates

The Collins Writing Program

A Writing Across the Curriculum Program with Over 35 Years of Proven Results

The Collins Writing Exchange

December 17, 2024 Issue #79

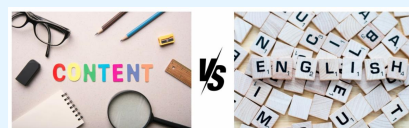


What's Better than Holidays Around the World? Writing Around the School!

Last month's newsletter highlighted the exceptional and creative work being done by teachers and students in Vermont CTE schools. In this issue, we continue to reaffirm our commitment to writing in all areas, including non-core subjects, where assignments naturally meet the three Rs of our framework - *real*, *relevant*, and *relatable* writing.

Quickwrites are a foundational part of any class and are perfect for elective classes. They take little time, are less intimidating (for teachers *and* students), and serve to engage students in learning content as well as the application of skills. Additionally, writing is one of the best vehicles for reinforcing and assessing content knowledge. With their clear structure and rigorous questions, our quickwrites also serve as great preparation for constructed response questions. And they are a classroom favorite because they can be completed and graded quickly.

Linked here are some examples of how quickwrites can be incorporated seamlessly and purposefully into elective areas. Quickwrites can be either *Type Ones* (brainstorming, activating prior knowledge, reflecting) or *Type Twos* (checking or reinforcing understanding), depending on where students are in the learning process. To keep quickwrites *quick*, remember to set a time limit for students to respond, usually about 2 to 5 minutes.



You do not need to be an English teacher to be a teacher who uses writing! **Click here** to explore some of the **similarities and differences** between the role of the English teacher and the role

Beyond Quickwrites

Looking for some slightly more in-depth assignments for your content area? Below is a link to some writing ideas that meet the three Rs of our framework yet are not "traditional" essays. Some are for younger grades and some for older. Customize them to make them work for your classroom!

Writing Beyond Quickwrites

Click here for last month's tips on providing quick feedback on writing.

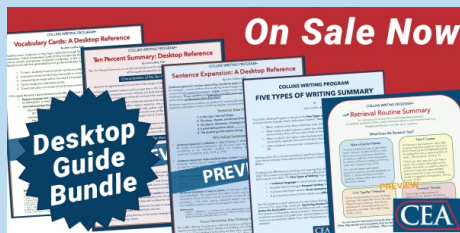
Learn more about Type One and Type Two writing here.

of content area teachers when it comes to using writing in the classroom.

And speaking of comparisons, we have the perfect alternative to the sometimes-clumsy Venn diagram...Our **Compare and Contrast Matrix** is a great graphic organizer and note-taking sheet for content area classes--and a huge crowd-pleaser!

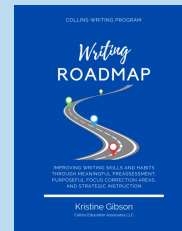
Comparing and Contrasting Matrix			
Type	Item 1	Item 2	How Similar or Different?
Characteristic 1			
Characteristic 2			
Characteristic 3			
Characteristic 4			

Get Your Materials Before the New Year! Teacher Favorites:



Desktop Guides

Five laminated guides, five high-leverage strategies... Everything you need to take on the Five Types of Writing, retrieval practice, vocabulary development, sentence expansion, and summarization. Choose one or bundle them all and save!



Writing Roadmap

It's never too late to get a handle on student writing needs, and the mid-year point is a great time for a check-in on student progress. *Writing Roadmap* contains all the tools you need to strengthen writing skills with responsive, purposeful FCAs and student exemplars.

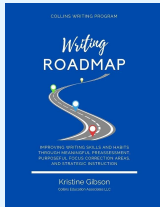
Plus, keep an eye out for ***New*** Desktop Guides in the New Year!

~ Using Writing in Math ~
~ Using Literacy in the CTE Environment ~

Check Out All of Our Collins Resources

Pre-Recorded PD at *Your Convenience*

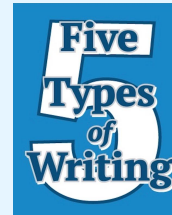
Offered in Collaboration with Central Intermediate Unit 10 in PA



Writing Roadmap:
Improving Writing Skills
and Habits Through
Meaningful Preassessment,
Purposeful FCAs, and Strategic
Instruction

*Three one-hour, pre-recorded
video modules
Anytime, Asynchronous Access*

Instructor: Kristine Gibson



**Introduction to the Collins
Writing Program**
An At-Your-Own Pace Introduction
to the
Five Types of Writing

*Six one-hour, pre-recorded
video modules
Anytime, Asynchronous Access*

Instructor: Dr. John Collins

Public Sessions Near You

(or in your pjs!)



Hosted by the Morris-Union Jointure Commission

- Four Activities that Apply the Science of Learning to Help Students Learn (1/7/25 Virtual)
- Picture This! Overcoming Student Writing Resistance in the Content Areas by Using Graphics (1/7/25 Virtual)
- Shifting the Balance: Improving Writing, Revising, and Editing Skills Through Increased Student Accountability and Engagement in the Writing Process (1/23/25 New Jersey)

And More Coming Attractions!



New PD Topics!

We're adding new sessions all the time! Continue to check our **Public Courses** for updates.

*Have an idea for a training topic?
Send it to cmcdonough@collinsed.com
and if we take your suggestion, we will
send you a free print or PDF item of
your choice from our online store!*

- *Portfolio and Project-Based Assessment Using the Five Types Framework*
- *Writing as a Tool for Test Prep*
- *Literacy in CTE Schools*
- *Using Literacy to Build Stamina and Confidence for WorkKeys*

Email cmcdonough@collinsed.com for more information.

Next Month: Writing in Science, Math, and Social Studies

*Send your questions, challenges, or ideas to: cmcdonough@collinsed.com
Those included in our next issue will receive a free Desktop Guide!*

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