



Starting Off on the Right Foot with Collins Writing

Establishing routines upfront saves time in the long run. We've compiled some of our tried-and-true strategies for setting students up for writing success and building an engaging writing culture in your classroom.

- Brush up on your Collins I.Q. by taking our [QUICK QUIZ](#).
- Quickly review the Five Types of Writing with students as you use each one for the first time. Download our [free mini-poster](#) to use as a handout and post [The Five Types of Writing](#) in your classroom for easy reference.
- Use Collins language to simplify instructions and build consistency in expectations.
- Communicate with parents about the Five Types of Writing. Find ready-to-use Letters to Parents in our [Free Resources](#) under “Collins Basics.”
- 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!
- Focus your instructional goals. Pre-assess student writing needs, prioritize key skills and habits, and map out an attainable plan for the year. Check out [Writing Roadmap](#) for the tools that make this possible.
- For Type Three and Four writing, post an example of the [suggested paper heading](#) and consider using our [downloadable, pre-formatted paper](#) to save time and keep students organized (additional versions available in our [Free Resources](#) under “Collins Basics”).
- Develop a system for collecting student writing samples to use as models throughout the year. Some teachers take photos of exemplary papers with their phones. Others make copies of papers that “need work” to use as instructional models in the classroom. Find a system that works for you and before you know it, you’ll have a great bank of papers to pull from no matter what you’re teaching!
- Start a simple [student portfolio system](#) that serves as a place to track writing growth and store papers for future revision and practice. For more on this, see [Using Collins Student Portfolios](#) and [Using Past Papers in the Collins Classroom](#).
- Most importantly, **get students writing on day one!** [Click here](#) for some great Type One prompts to start the year.