

Collins Writing Exchange

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

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about how you will wrap up your year of writing. In what areas have your students grown as writers? Where are they still struggling? How have the disruptions of the past year impacted students' progress and readiness for the next grade level?

The following prompts parallel prompts used in our Write Back to School (WBTS) pre-assessment package and are the perfect way to evaluate student writing progress at the end of the school year.

End-of-Year Diagnostic Writing Prompts

- [Grades K-2](#)
 - [Grades 3-5](#)
 - [Grades 6-12](#)
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A Note to Our Readers

Notes from the Marshall Memo: On Providing Feedback

The Marshall Memo is a weekly digital publication that includes a curated

The Marshall Memo

A Weekly Round-up of Important Ideas and Research in K-12 Education

synopsis of the most current research and best practices in education—a perfect way to get a weekly dose of professional reading without having to pore over thousands of articles to find the gems. All our Collins Associates subscribe to the Memo, and we highly recommend it to all our clients. In recent months, Kim Marshall has summarized numerous articles about providing feedback on student learning. Here are some of the key quotes that got our attention.

"A common mistake in giving feedback—one that often takes a lot of time and isn't the best use of that time—is providing it in a way that does the thinking for students rather than pushing them to think and learn. An example of this is correcting every grammar or punctuation mistake in a paper

—circling all the capital letters that should be lowercase or correcting all the end punctuation. The student is given the answer and isn't required to do any cognitive work."

Andrew Miller in "[6 Tips for Managing the Feedback Workload](#)"

Edutopia, July 3, 2019

"Feedback, after all, is just a teacher's response to something, and we can meaningfully respond to different assignments in a multitude of ways, many of them only taking a minute or two. I call these practices Flash Feedback, and while they come in small packages, they can pack a serious educational punch."

Matthew Johnson in "[Flash Feedback: How to Provide More Meaningful Feedback in Less Time](#)"

Cult of Pedagogy, May 10, 2020

"In terms of impact, will student learning be transformed by my grading this? Will I have time in the next lesson to allow students to reflect deeply on my feedback? Will I make them produce something that proves that they have learned from it? If the piece is marked for any reason other than impact, then it needs to be replaced by a different activity."

Elena Diaz in "[How to Spend Less Time Grading](#)"

Edutopia, December 22, 2020

For more professional articles like these, view a sample of the Marshall Memo [here](#).

Tip of the Month

Keeping Up with the Feedback Loop

Feeling bogged down by grading and feedback? Sometimes less is more. Providing meaningful feedback does not mean that teachers need to moonlight as copy editors for kids! Nor do content area specialists need to become trained English teachers. We've created a list of quick techniques to speed up the feedback process while increasing student accountability and building a growth mindset among students.

A Few of Our Favorites

- For Type One and Two Writing, embrace the power of self-scoring. As you go over a correct response, train students to check off or highlight that content in their own responses.
- Consider collecting and scoring a sampling of Type Ones or Twos instead of all of them. Roll dice to determine which row or group you will collect or pull popsicle sticks with students' names on them.
- When providing anecdotal feedback on Type Threes, consider limiting yourself to one "glow" and one "grow" per paper. This takes less time on your end and is more manageable for students as well.
- Use focused editing tasks. Before collecting work, ask students to color-code or otherwise identify evidence for each Focus Correction Area (FCA)—underline your content vocabulary, highlight your claim, number your text examples, etc. This helps build student accountability while making it easier for you to skim for the content or skills you're looking for.

For the complete list, see "[Tips for Providing Quick and Meaningful Feedback](#)."



Administrators' Corner

Plan for the Future by Assessing Schoolwide Collins Implementation

As we begin to think about next year's professional development (PD), now is the perfect opportunity to check in on your school's Collins practice. By using our curated 18 question Collins Implementation Survey, you will gain insight into what's working and what's not working with Collins Writing in your building. From there, we can help you design the perfect PD plan for your staff, whether it includes whole staff training on an identified topic or small group work on a variety of different topics.

See how you are progressing with implementation of the Collins Writing ProgramSM by answering a [sampling of questions about basic, intermediate, and advanced Collins strategies](#).

For the full survey and a consultation, [contact our main office](#) or reach out to your Collins consultant for more details.



Quick Links

Summer School and Beyond

The recently signed American Rescue Plan will infuse K-12 schools with an unprecedented \$129 billion in federal aid. This includes \$1.9 billion earmarked specifically for summer enrichment programs designed to combat learning losses caused by the ongoing pandemic.

As you think about your own summer programming, consider reaching out to us for assistance. We have some great ideas for summer writing courses that students might actually want to take. Look for more information in our next newsletter or [contact us](#) to learn more right away.

More links of interest:

**HOW AM I DOING?
TOOL**

See how you're doing implementing Collins Writing strategies. Try this sample of questions

from our self-assessment survey.

PD OPTIONS &
WORKSHOPS

From basic to expert—everything you need to know about our PD options, workshops, institutes, and graduate courses.

FREE
RESOURCES

Ready-to-use Type Threes, FCA lists, graphic organizers, and more!

ESSENTIAL
CONVENTIONS

Check Mate™ and other resources to tackle teachers' biggest writing pet peeves!

EXCHANGE
ARCHIVE

All previous newsletters with FREE writing assignments in every edition!

Website

Contact Us



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