



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 18, 2025 Issue #86



For Teachers: The Gift that Keeps on Giving

"A gifted teacher is not only prepared to meet the needs of today's student, but is also prepared to see the tomorrow in every student."

--Robert John Meehan

When talking about the focus of this month's newsletter, the holiday theme was kicked around. In that discussion, the word "gift" recurred frequently. With that in mind, this issue is a way for us to give back to educators with our own CEA Gifts! Teachers are always giving - we want to acknowledge your contributions with a few tokens of appreciation. So, dig in and unwrap your gifts of free resources and opportunities.



Take your pick! Download one or grab them all!

Vocabulary-Building Assignments
Be a Decoder

Decode a secret message using Greek and Latin word parts as you step into the role of an FBI language expert.

Mystery Word Riddles

Mystery word, mystery character, mystery number--the options are endless! Use this assignment throughout the year to build vocabulary and higher order thinking skills.
(K-2, 3-12)



Virtual Collins Support

For Individuals and Cohorts
Collins A la Carte

Register for made-to-order training sessions!

For Quick Questions
Collins 9-1-1

Email us and have your questions answered by a Collins Associate!

For Asynchronous Tutorials
Collins Video Library

View our collection of FREE and engaging videos on a variety of topics!

Data Analysis Assignment

Brothers, Sisters, or None?

Put on your statistician hat as you turn class family data into clear graphs and explain what the numbers show.

Holiday-Themed Assignment

Celebrations Around the World

Honor and share holiday traditions with this fun assignment.

(K-2, 3-5, 6-12)

Favorite Graphic Organizer

Compare/Contrast Matrix

Use all-year-round to help students organize and analyze important content-- Better than a Venn Diagram!

Text-Based Writing Support

Go-To Questions

Build student response to text with Type One, Two, and Three writing prompts and quick tips on how to use them.

Primary Grade Support

Symbolic FCAs

Help your young writers set clear goals for their writing with these kindergarten-friendly FCAs.

For Live Virtual Support

Collins Round Table

***Email us** to arrange a round table discussion of a topic you would like to know more about. Perfect for administrators or decision makers considering implementation of our program or looking to support their team.*

For CTE Teachers and Leaders

Career and Tech in a Nutshell

*Interested in using good communication skills in your program to support success in careers or college? **Schedule a 30-minute virtual session** to learn more about our one-of-a-kind CTE-focused training and resources.*

For One-on-One Support

Speed Dating with an Expert

*Schedule a 15-minute "date" with one of our experts and bring your questions! Choose CEO **Kristine Gibson** for all things Five Types of Writing; Math expert, **Bill Atwood**; or, if looking for more of a non-traditional companion, choose **Cheryl McDonough** to learn more about Collins in CTE, PBL, and/or WBL!*

***The Collins Free for All:** Not sure what you're looking for? More of a window-shopper? Browse our online **FREE RESOURCES** and find the perfect gift for YOU! Download assignments, templates, letters to parents, FCAs, and more!*

Winter is a Great Time to Get Social!

Whatever you call it—
Social Platform? Social
Network? Digital Community?—
We've got it!

We are expanding and improving our Collins network by providing fun and helpful tips, videos, and free assignments on our social media platforms! Check them out and let us know what you think. Like, Share, and Comment to help us spread the word about all the great things we're doing at CEA—and to celebrate all the great things YOU are doing with writing across the curriculum!



We invite YOU to send us suggestions or material to post!

Do you have a cool Collins assignment to share? Do you want to celebrate a student writing success story? Maybe you'd like to spotlight a colleague's work. Or even ask us a question! **Send us your content**, and if we feature it in our socials, we'll reward you with a **\$10 credit** to use in our online store.



[Buy Products | Collins Education Associates](#)

"The expert in anything was once a beginner." - Helen Hayes, actor

Let One of our Experts Get You Started with Collins Writing Strategies

Join One of Our Public Sessions

Virtual Offerings

(Short 2-hour sessions open to ALL!)

**Making Mechanics Matter:
Holding Students Accountable for Your Biggest
Writing Pet Peeves**
Grades: 4-10
January 13, 2026
[Learn More and Sign Up](#)

Sentence Building: From Basic to Breathtaking
Grades: 4-10 ELA
March 5, 2026
[Learn More and Sign Up](#)

In-Person Workshops

(New Jersey and Pennsylvania)



**Activities That Promote Close
Reading and Thoughtful Text-
Based Response**
Grades: 3-8
January 22, 2026
New Providence, NJ
[Learn More and Sign Up](#)

**Managing and Improving
Writing Skills and Habits
in the Primary Grades**
Grades: K-2
February 2, 2026
New Providence, NJ
[Learn More and Sign Up](#)



***Would you like to see more
public workshops offered in
your area? We frequently partner
with Intermediate Units and
Educational Service Centers to
provide cost-effective PD
opportunities. Put us in touch with
yours, and we'll reach out. Or, if
you would like to host a public
session at your school, explore
out **Institute option** and earn **free
PD for your staff!*****

Literacy Power Tools: How to Include Authentic and Relevant Literacy

in the CTE Classroom

Grades: 9-12

February 10, 2026

New Providence, NJ

Learn More and Sign Up

Introduction to the Five Types of Writing

Grades: K-12

February 2026

Greensburg, PA

Learn More and Sign Up

K-2, 3-8, 6-12



Now that you've finished unwrapping, it's time to start *wrapping up* 2025. Wishing you a joyful and restful holiday season!
See you in 2026!

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

--Winston Churchill



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CWP**

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