



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



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.

across the curriculum!



**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**



*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*

Grades: K-2
February 2, 2026
New Providence, NJ
[Learn More and Sign Up](#)

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

PD for your staff!



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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