



Collins Education Associates

# The Collins Writing Program

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

## The Collins Writing Exchange

January 11, 2024 Issue #72

### Happy New Year!

#### There Will Never Be Another 2024 – Make It Matter!

*Welcome to 2024 – a year full of potential and opportunities to practice new strategies and re-engage with those we may have neglected or forgotten. In this issue, find tools and assignments for all grade levels that you can use this month and throughout the new year. As part of our renewed commitment to building a culture of writing and a community of writers, be sure to share this newsletter link with friends and colleagues – every teacher loves new ideas and ready-to-use assignments!*



#### Topic of the Month: Renewal

January is traditionally the month when we recommit to goals and make resolutions to better ourselves. Studies show that resolutions work best when limited in number and attached to existing routines. Try this fun **3-2-1 Resolution** assignment with your students to help them reflect on their progress and learning habits so far this year and set a renewed focus for 2024.

#### Let's Make 3-2-1 Resolutions!

Use this Type Three assignment “as-is” or feel free to make it your own. Student resolutions can be academic, writing-related, behavioral, social-emotional, or personal. What’s important is that students take time to reflect on their current routines and push themselves to find ways to grow. Following up by revisiting resolutions periodically and having students do a quick Type One reflection on their progress will help to make resolutions



## K-2 Assignment

## Grade 3-5 Assignment

## Grade 6-12 Assignment

Send in copies of your favorite student resolutions for a chance to win \$25 in Free Products! Email us at [info@collinsed.com](mailto:info@collinsed.com).

## New Year, New Opportunities for Free Stuff!

Each month, we will highlight a special day, event, or topic in our newsletter. In February, in honor of Presidents' Day, we will look at the theme of leadership. If you have a great leadership assignment, send it to Cheryl McDonough by 1/24/24 for a chance to be published in our newsletter and receive up to \$50 in free products!



## 3-2-1 Resolutions for Teachers

Resolutions aren't just for students! What resolutions can we as teachers make to improve our classroom practices and make 2024 a success? Here are some inspiring teacher resolutions to start the year!

*I resolve to use these THREE Collins expectations consistently:*

- Set a time limit for **Type One writing** and include a number in the prompt.
- Use the **Six Criteria for a Great Prompt** when developing Type Two questions to check for content area knowledge.
- Build in time for students to **read their Type Three and Four writing out loud** before submitting.

*I resolve to meet these TWO Collins goals with my students:*

- Include daily Collins Writing of *some* Type.
- Always include one content FCA and no more than one convention FCA in **Type Three** assignments.

*I resolve to tackle this ONE Collins challenge:*

- Transition all of my writing assignments to the **Collins framework** for consistency.

Print out and post these sample resolutions for yourself or create your own!  
*Now is a great time to recommit to fostering a culture of writing.*

## Exciting Resources for Teachers and Schools

*The Essential Conventions Check Mate*

Student Reference  
Folder

You're not alone. *The Essential Conventions Check Mate™* is a handy classroom reference that clearly and concisely explains the critical writing conventions for each grade band. The sturdy cardstock fold-out is three-hole punched, so students can keep it at the ready in their binders to quickly check on a rule or see examples of how to apply rules correctly. Teachers can also use *Check Mate* as a guide for selecting and teaching mechanics FCAs for assignments and for troubleshooting common errors. One of our favorite ways to use *Check Mate* is to tackle mechanics pet peeves that seem to crop up all too often in student writing!

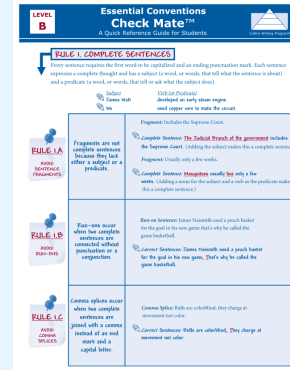
The full suite of **Check Mate materials** includes classroom posters, Student Reference Folders, and a Teacher Resource Guide for each grade band (P, A, B, and C).

Order here to get started with *Check Mate* right away!

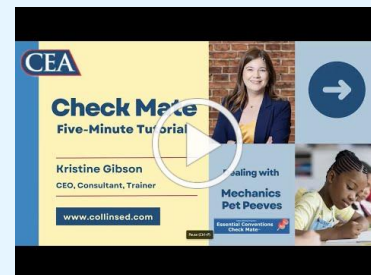
## Want to Learn More?

See how CEO Kristine Gibson uses *Check Mate* to address common convention issues, save teacher grading time, and build student accountability for writing mechanics.

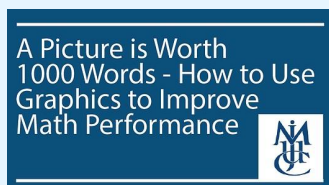
## Five-Minute Video Tutorial: Tackling Mechanics Pet Peeves with Check Mate



## Classroom Poster



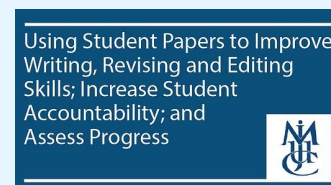
## Mark Your Calendar for These Coming Attractions!



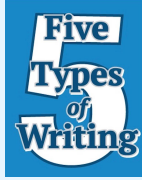
Virtual Session  
January 22nd  
**REGISTER NOW!**



Literacy that Works in the  
CTE Classroom  
Full Day Training  
Lake Morey, VT  
March - Date TBD



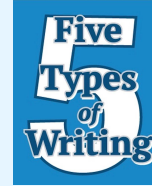
Full Day Training  
New Providence, NJ  
February 5th  
**REGISTER NOW!**



Five Types of Writing  
Full Day Training  
Lake Morey, VT  
March - Date TBD

CAREER  
TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION

Online Graduate/  
Undergraduate Course for  
CTE Teachers through  
Vermont State University  
Spring/Summer 2024



Online Five Types of Writing  
Graduate Course through  
Vermont State University  
Spring/Summer 2024

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