



Essential Lessons to Accelerate Student Writing

TARGET THE ESSENTIAL LESSONS TO
ACCELERATE STUDENT WRITING PER UNIT



Online Workshop Overview

During an era when accelerated learning is the goal, it's important to prioritize writing instruction so that the most essential K-12 skills are the foundation of a writing curriculum. This requires more than just showing strong examples and assigning writing topics. Students need explicit, skill-based instruction that demonstrates how to incorporate the most critical, genre-specific ingredients into their own first-draft writings.

Using the college and career-ready writing standards as the foundation, this workshop for K-12 teachers identifies the core writing skills to teach per unit.

Whether you assign topics or students choose them, whether your students write multiple paragraphs or draw a single picture with letter labels, this four-part workshop identifies the top-tier instructional priorities to plan into any writing curriculum.

WORKSHOP OUTLINE

Prioritize the type of “info” that must be incorporated in informative writings.

Learn how to provide instruction so students can:

- Embed content, text evidence, and topic-specific vocabulary accurately.
- Explain and elaborate on information stated.

Target the different genres of informative writing and their various characteristics.

Teach students to know how to:

- Recognize the different ways to organize information depending on the writing purpose or prompt.
- Move beyond predictable introductions and summary conclusions.

Craft instruction for powerful persuasives and sophisticated arguments appropriate for primary, intermediate, and secondary classrooms.

Teach students how to:

- Align with a side based on positional proof—rather than personal preference.
- Identify reasons to support a position with evidence and elaboration.

Target the non-negotiables of any narrative writing unit.

Provide instruction so students can:

- Prioritize the two required elements of every story—a problem and a solution.
- Generate read-write narratives that align with the expectations of standardized tests (e.g., rewrite the story from a different character's viewpoint).

Instructor:

Kristina Smekens
*President & Lead Consultant
for Smekens Education Solutions, Inc.*

Who benefits?

- K-5 Classroom Teachers
- 6-12 English Language Arts Teachers
- Literacy Coaches / Coordinators
- Title I Teachers / Directors
- ELL Teachers
- Special Education Teachers
- K-12 High-Ability Teachers
- K-12 Administrators

Three reasons to complete this workshop:

1. When it comes to instructional time, every minute counts.

Make your time count by prioritizing your writing instruction to address gaps and accelerate learning.

2. Explicit teaching gets results.

Standards and resources tell you *what* to teach, but in this workshop you'll learn *how* to teach each essential skill.

3. Strong writers perform better on standardized assessments.

Preparing students for the challenging read-write tasks they will encounter on state and national assessments requires instruction on how to convey comprehension in a written response.

Top questions teachers ask about accelerating learning in order to achieve grade-level expectations in writing:

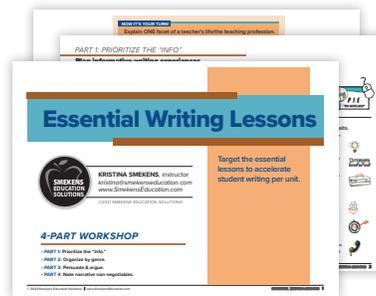
1. What are the most essential writing lessons that my students need to learn?
2. How can I make my writing mini-lessons more effective?
3. How much instructional time should I dedicate to each unit of writing?
4. What kinds of writing products should my students be producing?
5. How can I tie my grammar instruction to my writing units?
6. How can I accelerate my students' learning in the area of writing?

Kristina provides answers to these questions and many more!

WHAT YOU WILL GET

On-Demand Videos

Enjoy on-demand access to relevant and engaging presentations for a **full year**.



Downloadable Handout

Receive a full-color downloadable handout for note-taking as you view the workshop.

Secret Site Resources

Registrants receive lifetime access to a password-protected web page that contains a treasure trove of lessons, videos, and other resources for implementation.



Completion Certificate

Receive a downloadable completion certificate for 5 hours of professional development credit.

Graduate-Level Units

Thanks to a partnership with the University of the Pacific, educators who complete each of the videos in a webAcademy workshop are eligible to pursue 1, 2, or 3 nationally-accredited graduate-level semester units. The cost of graduate-level units (\$62 per unit) is separate from the cost of the online workshop.

Graduate-level units offered through the University of the Pacific are non-degree units which are designed for professional certification renewals and salary step increases. (The units are post-baccalaureate professional development semester units of non-degree graduate level and are not applicable to a degree at University of the Pacific.) To learn more, contact our office—support@smekenseducation.com or call (888) 376-0448.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Kristina Smekens

Kristina Smekens is a full-time literacy consultant who has built a reputation for using enthusiasm, humor, and common sense to equip K-12 educators with practical, demystifying strategies for teaching reading and writing.



As president and lead consultant for Smekens Education, Kristina is constantly developing new strategies for helping teachers to meet the demands of today's College and Career-Ready Standards. She and her associates share those strategies with teachers across the United States and beyond through on-site professional development, seminars, and an always-growing pool of print, digital, and video resources.

A PRESENTER

Kristina has a gift for making the complex seem simple—for showing teachers how to meet the needs of readers and writers by bridging the gap between education research and practical, classroom-tested strategies that work. When she presents at state and national conferences, teachers flock to her sessions because they know Kristina will share strategies they can use in their own classrooms the very next day.

But beyond providing teachers with practical classroom techniques, Kristina is also a master at giving educators the motivation and encouragement they need to return to their classrooms with confidence and excitement to execute change. To stay connected, Kristina sends out a bi-weekly newsletter, "Big Ideas." Thousands of teachers watch their email each Tuesday for it to arrive.

AN AUTHOR

Well known for offering innovative ideas, Kristina has created more than 50 "Smekens Originals," a compilation of books, guides, and classroom tools designed to help teachers implement best-practice literacy strategies. Among the most popular of these resources are her best-selling books: *Launching the Writer's Workshop: Grades K-2 and Grades 3-12*, and *The Comprehension Playbook*.

BACKGROUND

Kristina earned her BA in English and education at Michigan State University. Prior to her full-time consulting career, she was an accomplished high school English and journalism teacher in Michigan and Indiana. A leader in state and national scholastic journalism endeavors, Kristina authored a journalism textbook and teachers' guide for Walsworth Publishing in 2002.

Over the years, she has been blessed to work and learn with hundreds of schools and thousands of teachers throughout the Midwest. She was awarded the Excellence in Reading Award by the Indiana State Reading Association in 2013 for her contributions to literacy in Indiana.

Kristina lives in Warren, Indiana with her husband and business partner Brady.

"I feel so much more confident in my ability to prepare my students for the rigorous reading & writing standards of today and tomorrow!"

Kristy Worthington, teacher, St. Louis de Montfort Catholic School, Fishers, IN

"I continue to be amazed by Smekens workshops. Thank you for all of the wonderful information and resources! It will help me in preparing my students for their End-of-Course tests!"

Melissa Watts, teacher, Logan High School, Logan, OH

"Informative and easily accessible information to help with future planning and instruction!"

Sarah Boehme, teacher, Pawnee Elementary School, Pawnee, IL

"I love the way Kristina presents the information with so much enthusiasm. I love how she builds on what she's taught before."

Kristen Smith, teacher, Elm Gilmer County High School, Glenville, WV

"After 28 years of teaching, I have attended a lot of PD workshops. Absolutely none of them hold a candle to the Smekens workshops... Kristina is inspirational and makes me look forward to a new year!"

Carol Brown, teacher, Ankeney Middle School, Beaver Creek, OH

"Super engaging and informative! I can't wait to put all of this into use!"

Jennifer Page, teacher, Woodford County Schools, Versailles, KY

Essential Lessons to Accelerate Student Writing

Contact Person: _____

Email: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

School phone: _____

WEBCADEMY WORKSHOP FEE:

\$169/person **More than 15?**
Call us at (888) 376-0448 for custom pricing.

PAYMENT:

Purchase Order attached (# _____)

TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTRANTS: _____

DATE YOU WOULD LIKE TO START? ____ / ____ / ____

TOTAL PURCHASE AMOUNT:

TO ENROLL:

FAX THIS FORM – with a school purchase order to **888-376-0489**

or *EMAIL THIS FORM OR AN EXCEL FILE* – with a school purchase order to **webacademy@smekenseducation.com**

Registration Process

After a purchase order is received, a professional development specialist will email each registrant with instructions for accessing the online workshop.

Satisfaction Guarantee

Every online workshop comes with a 100% money-back guarantee. If you aren't satisfied, contact Brady Smekens within the first 10 days of your purchase.

WHO'S VIEWING THIS WORKSHOP? To register more than 7, please submit this form with an Excel file that contains a list of the registrants' names and email addresses to **webacademy@smekenseducation.com**.

Name	Email

TERMS OF USE

We encourage enrolled participants to take advantage of all the features webAcademy has to offer. In doing so, participants agree to the following terms of use:

- 1 Login information and video access may NOT be shared with any individual who is not enrolled in the online workshop.
- 2 Unauthorized sharing of login access will result in a non-refundable cancellation of any and all active online workshops.
- 3 Subscribers are not permitted to reprint, republish, repost, or otherwise distribute any content or images from an online workshop.

MUST AGREE & SIGN

By checking & signing, you agree with the **Terms of Use**.