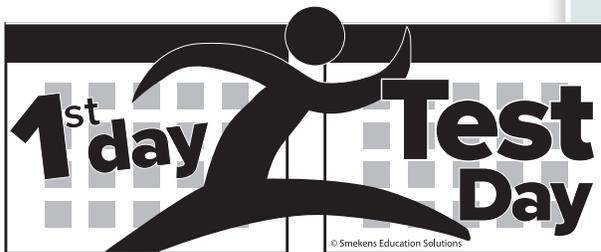




First Day to Test Day

A ROAD MAP TO ACCELERATE STUDENT LEARNING AND
PREPARE FOR STANDARDIZED TESTS



Online Workshop Overview

If students are going to succeed on state and national ELA assessments, preparation for Test Day needs to begin on the first day. By following a road map of instruction rooted in explicit teaching of priority standards, educators can accelerate learning and move students toward test success.

During this workshop, educators from grades 3-12 will learn how to craft a yearlong scaffold of instruction that intertwines reading and writing subskills so that students achieve true depth of knowledge before Test Day arrives.

Students need a full year to develop the skills required to complete the complex tasks on today's read-write assessments. This workshop will offer numerous lesson concepts, classroom examples, digital resources, and specific teaching points. In addition, there will be tips shared that improve students' digital literacy skills—including reading off a screen and composing on a screen.

To get kids Test-Day ready, teachers must start immediately, plan intentionally, and teach explicitly. This workshop will provide the tools necessary to do just that.

WORKSHOP OUTLINE

Target the thinking that students must execute when reading any text.

- Demystify the inference process in order to answer comprehension questions about complex texts.
- Attack questions with test-taking tips to support finding the “best” and “most likely” answers.

Reveal to students that their thinking must also be communicated in writing.

- Define the ingredients to a strong constructed response.
- Propel students beyond simply stating evidence to explaining it.

Advance students beyond making single-text inferences to generating multi-text syntheses.

- Identify a step-by-step process for reading and annotating multiple texts in one sitting.
- Dissect how readers integrate ideas learned from multiple sources to generate a new thought or synthesis.

Raise the rigor to reading multiple texts and composing extended responses—all in one sitting.

- Provide explicit instruction on academic vocabulary to support students in decoding and responding to prompts.
- Build on the students' knowledge of short constructed responses to generate long, extended responses.

Instructor:

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

Who benefits?

- 3-12 English Language Arts Teachers
- 6-12 Content-Area 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. High-stakes testing affects everyone.

How students perform on standardized reading and writing tests has far-reaching implications for students, teachers, and schools. Insights into the requirements for test success are needed now more than ever before.

2. Success on standardized tests is only part of the goal.

With mastery of academic standards as the ultimate goal, targeted and intentional preparation for the state assessment helps students improve as readers and writers for the test and beyond.

3. Success on the test requires explicit instruction.

Kristina Smekens will share strategies to embed rigorous reading and writing instruction into your yearlong curriculum so that students are equipped with the most essential literacy skills.

Top questions teachers ask about accelerating learning in preparation for standardized tests:

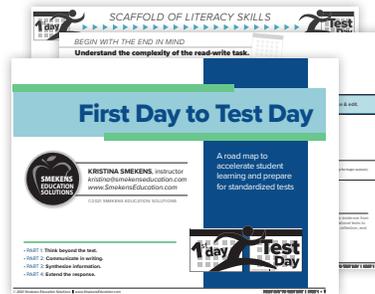
1. How can I intentionally prepare students for the state assessment without simply “teaching to the test”?
2. At the beginning of the school year, which skills should I teach first?
3. How should I prioritize my yearlong planning and ensure my accelerated instruction goes in a logical order?
4. Beyond the English/language arts curriculum, what can be done in the content areas to cultivate critical reading and writing skills?

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

First Day to Test Day

Contact Person: _____

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School name: _____

School address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

School phone: _____

WEBCADEMY WORKSHOP FEE:

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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:

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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.

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.

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**.

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