

**Common Core  
aligned  
writing  
workshop**

for  
our youngest writers

by

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Session A8 Handout

Saturday January 17, 2015 11:00am-12:15pm

**PK1 Conference**

January 16-18, 2015





# Key Ideas

## about Common Core Writing & Workshop

### **1. Distribution of Writing In 3 Text Types:**

The Common Core emphasizes that equal amounts of instructional time be spent in each of the three writing text types: argument, information & narrative.

### **2. Writing For Real Purposes and A Real Audience Across The 3 Text Types:**

The Common Core emphasizes learning across disciplines (reading with writing, math, social studies and science standards combined into one task).

### **3. The Writing Process:**

The Common Core emphasizes students are given time to develop and strengthen writing in all 3 text types as needed by planning, revising and editing. Different types of writing place different demands on student writers.

### **4. Write Routinely:**

The Common Core calls for students to write often and over extended time frames. Provide authentic writing experiences. Choice in topic matters and leads to a more engaged writer. Gone are the days of assigned topic writing.

# 10 Key Ideas about Common Core Writing & Workshop

## 5. The Quality of Writing:

The Common Core calls for higher expectations in writing. The quality and volume of student writing is enhanced when students are given opportunities to study quality writing and practice writing daily.

## 6. Explicit Instruction:

The Common Core emphasizes that students apply the same standard of craft, structure, elaboration and organization. Modeled writing, shared writing, exemplar pieces, and mentor texts extends learning.

## 7. Thinking Deeply:

The Common Core emphasizes critical thinking. It requires students to analyze more, discuss more, justify and explain their thinking and reasoning by providing evidence in their writing. Students will spend more time working together collaboratively.

## 8. Show How You Know:

The Common Core emphasizes proof and evidence. Narrative writing calls for writers provide action, thoughts and feelings as well as dialogue. Information and Argument writing calls for concrete details, examples and quotes.



# Key Ideas

## about Common Core Writing & Workshop

### 9. Collect & Study Student Work:

The Common Core emphasizes the skills a writer will need to know to write any type of text. The CCSS Writing Standards Spiral .Study the descriptors of the grade level standards in each writing text type to access your students' progress. Collect student work on a regular and timely basis to **monitor student progress and to provide differentiation and scaffolding of support to individual students.**

Lucy Calkins provides a free assessment tool aligned to CCSS at <http://readingandwritingproject.com>

### 10. Set Clear Expectations & Goals and Provide Explicit Timely Feedback:

The Common Core has raised the bar for the quality of writing we should expect students to produce. In order to achieve this, we need to be clear about what we expect our students to know and be able to do. When we start every lesson with a focus on expected learning we encourage our students to reach for the highest level of performance. When we confer with students we need to be clear and explicit on what we notice in their writing and what strategy the student might employ.

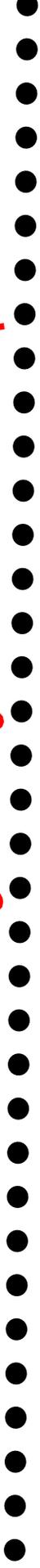
# Tips and Structures for Supporting Independence & Stamina During Writing Workshop



- Set up rituals and routines so that students can get materials & started on their own immediately.
- Are the students able to generate their own ideas for writing? If not brainstorm ideas using people, places, things as possible writing topics.
- Is there evidence of the children growing as writers? Collect student work at regular intervals and check against standards for possible teaching points.
- Provide paper choice depending on the level of student or the unit of study? Paper acts as a differentiation tool.
- Circulate during the writing workshop and conference with students to scaffold & support their individual needs.
- Teach students strategies for carrying on their work with independence. For example, what to do when you think you are done.
- Make your mini-lesson short and explicit to provide ample time for students to actually write.
- Provide time for students to orally rehearse with partners prior to writing.

# Resources

to guide your next steps...



*Units of Study in Opinion, Information, and Narrative Writing* by Lucy Calkins

*Pathways To The Common Core* by Lucy Calkins, Mary Ehrenworth,  
Christopher Lehman

*Writing Pathways* by Lucy Calkins

*The Writing Workshop* by Katie Wood Ray

*Wondrous Words* by Katie Wood Ray

*Close Reading* by Chris Lehman and Kate Roberts

*Smarter Charts* by Marjorie Martinelli and Kristine Mraz



# On-Line Resources

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- Email: [hellotwopeasinapod@gmail.com](mailto:hellotwopeasinapod@gmail.com)

## *Some of My Favs*

- The Teachers College Reading and Writing Project,  
Columbia University
- <http://readingandwritingproject.com>
- Vimeo Teachers College Reading and Writing Project
- <http://vimeo.com/tcrwp/albums>

