

Collins Writing

Grades 6-12

Collins Writing provides teachers of all content areas the tools to provide students a variety of daily writing opportunities, consistent structures and processes, appropriate and focused feedback and support, and authentic modes of response that impact both content learning and the refinement of craft.

Collins accomplishes this primarily through a variety of standardized writing opportunities:

Type One Writing allows students of any ability level or writing proficiency level to build confidence, increase engagement, and build connections to content. It provides:

- a pathway to build response to text.
- opportunities to encourage critical thinking and critical reading.
- unmatched opportunity for increasing the frequency of composing activities.
- opportunities for intensive bursts of creativity and composition in shorter time frames.
- the opportunity to build the habit of writing.
- the opportunity to build writing fluency

Type Two Writing embodies formative assessment in asking students to generate learning as opposed to simply recognizing learning. It provides:

- opportunities to write to increase learning.
- connections to reading, listening, and viewing activities.
- frequent opportunities to build response in shorter time frames.
- practice for open-ended, constructed response test items.
- connections to discipline-specific vocabulary and concepts.

Type Three Writing provides authentic academic writing opportunities to both impact content learning and refine writing product and process. It provides:

- focused practice in refining writer's craft.
- focused feedback.
- opportunities to write to increase learning.
- opportunities to write to both shorter and extended time frames.
- a consistent focus on building fluency and refining revision skills.
- opportunities to practice and refine grammar and mechanics in context.
- opportunities to build self-awareness and connections to language and conventions in composition.

Type Four Writing provides all of the benefits of a Type Three in producing a quality finished writing product. It also provides:

- opportunities to write to more extended and multi-step time frames.
- practice of peer revision in developing authentically reviewed final drafts.
- for the incorporation of technology in building finished drafts of high quality.

Type Five Writing provides the benefits of a Type Four in producing a publishable writing product for an authentic audience. It also provides:

- authentic tasks of sufficient rigor and challenging time frames and deadlines.
- the challenge of producing multi-draft revisions to build precision in craft and product.

Collins also offers educators a consistent approach to composing in his **Seven Steps to Creating Great Writing Assignments**. This structure allows for the continued refinement of craft and product with an emphasis on:

- audience.
- voice.
- evidence/support of idea, claim, or argument.
- defining purpose.
- refining and connecting structure to purpose.
- providing variety of formats appropriate to response and purpose.

In closing, Collins allows for the shift in focus to more argumentative, informational and narrative writing with great facility. Skills in context, variety of response, content-connected composing, evidence-based argument – all are provided for in the structures that are the foundation of this program. With a scope that extends from primary grades through high school, Collins Writing provides a consistency of language and practice that encourages and enables meaningful articulation in building successful district-wide writing initiatives aligned to the Common Core Standards.