

BUILDING WRITERS: TEACHING EXPOSITORY WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

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COURSE

DESCRIPTION: Building Writers will introduce teachers to a comprehensive writing program geared to empower all expository writers, from idea to implementation. After attending the 10-hour workshop, teachers will be ready to go into any classroom and immediately help students better attack prompts, organize written responses, and master the composition standards of the Massachusetts ELA Curriculum Frameworks. Building Writers was designed by teachers for teachers and is classroom-tested for expository writing across the curriculum. The workshop will include interactive presentations by classroom teachers and dissemination of useful materials to help participants in their classrooms tomorrow. The workshop will utilize formative and summative assessment of participants to ensure full understanding of the Building Writers program.

COURSE

OUTCOMES: Knowledge/Skills:

- Fundamental components of expository writing
- Building Writers Program
- Four step pre-writing process
- Fail proof thesis formation
- Activities to introduce and reinforce the program
- Methodology for helping students with all standardized test prompts.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS

ADDRESSED:

- English Language Arts
- History and Social Sciences
- Science Technology/Engineering
- English Language Proficiency

METHODOLOGY: A variety of methods will be used including: interactive presentations, participant/instructor conferencing, group discussion and group and individual presentations.

ATTENDANCE: It is expected that participants attend the full workshop to receive PDPs.

EVALUATION: Formative: Participants will monitor their understanding of the program through written assessment and conferences with instructor(s).
Summative: Participants will submit a lesson plan or mini-unit in which they introduce Building Writers, or exhibit implementation of the Building Writers program in their classroom.

WORKSHOP
OUTLINE:

Session I:
Welcome and agenda overview
Identifying areas of weakness in students' expository writing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Group identification of problem areas- Putting the problems in perspective- Origins of Building Writers: Moving from problems to <i>a solution</i>
One Unifying Solution: Presentation of the core aspects of the Building Writers program <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fail proof thesis components- Writing as if you are building a house: Introduction to the graphical representation of the fundamental components of expository writing- Four step pre-writing process
Introducing Building Writers to your students: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Summer Activities: modeled introductory activity- "Ordeal by Cheque": modeled introductory activity
Session II:
Formative Assessment: Participants will monitor their understanding of the program through written assessment and conferences with instructor(s).
Building Writers works with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- All levels from grade school to grad school- With fiction and non-fiction- Any standardized test prompt (MCAS, SAT or AP)
Teaching the Conceptual Leap: How to go from concrete to abstract <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Consumer grouping activity- Attribute activity
Assessment: From pre-writing to a writing program
-Participant production of the summative assessment
-Product feedback from instructor(s)

Summative Assessment Assignment Sheet

Task: Create a lesson plan or mini-unit that you will employ in your classroom to either introduce the Building Writers program or exhibit implementation of the program. Remember to keep it useful and applicable to your classroom and your content area.

All submissions must contain the following:

- State frameworks/standards addressed
- Content objectives
- Skill objectives
- Classroom procedures
- Handouts used (if applicable)
- Metacognitive reflection: Participants should also include a reflection on the implementation of the program and its impact on student learning of both skills and the content. Suggestions should be made on how to continue the momentum built by their endeavors or how to improve upon the program.

Evaluation

- Participants will be evaluated upon their ability to correctly convey the core tenets of the program to their students
- Instructors will employ the following rubric to help guide participants along this path.
- Feedback will be given to help the implementation and continuation of this program at the classroom level.

	Advanced	Proficient	Needs Improvement
Building a house: establishing the graphical representation of the core principles of expository writing	Lessons in this category will visually show students how expository writing is like building a house and have them create their own house.	Lessons in this category will show students how expository writing is like building a house.	Lessons in this category will not establish how expository writing is like building a house.
Pre-writing process	Lessons in this category will have students complete the four step pre-writing process while they construct their house.	Lessons in this category will have students complete some of the steps of the pre-writing process.	Lessons in this category will not have students complete any of the steps of the pre-writing process.
Thesis formation	Lessons in this category will have students create a CSD3R thesis.	Lessons in this category will have students create an SD3R thesis.	Lessons in this category will not have students end up with a thesis.