



# Teaching Writing Skills All Year Long

*With resources for Grades 3-12*

## PLAN YOUR YEARLONG WRITING CURRICULUM

### Online Workshop Overview

After you've devised a plan to launch your writer's workshop during the first weeks of school, the next step is to look ahead toward the rest of the year. This online workshop is designed to guide 3-12 teachers through the planning of a yearlong writing curriculum. This includes determining mini-lesson instruction, identifying frequent assignments, and communicating assessment feedback all within the three major types of writing—opinion/persuasive/argumentative, informative/expository, and narrative.

### Workshop Topics:

- Define a "writing unit": its length, its focuses, and its final product(s).
- Discover how often to "publish" a final draft and how frequently students should produce first drafts.
- Identify procedures for selecting priority writing standards to target within each writing unit.
- Learn strategies for teaching a writing skill over multiple days to deepen student understanding and gradually release responsibility to the students.
- Learn effective ways to integrate convention/grammar skills throughout the year.
- Learn how to incorporate mentor text examples and kid-friendly rubrics within a unit.
- Receive suggestions for grading student writing and assessing students' understanding of a genre.



"I finally feel like I have a handle on how to approach writing. As a middle school history teacher who has to also do a period of writing, this has been invaluable. Loved it!"

**Huston Mathias** • Teacher at Ingersoll Middle School, Canton, IL

### Who Benefits?

- Grades 3-12 Teachers
- Literacy Coaches
- Literacy Coordinators
- Title I Teachers / Directors
- ELL Teachers
- Gifted & Talented Teachers
- Administrators

### The book is included!

Receive a FREE digital copy of *Launching the Writer's Workshop: Grades 3-12* to use as a resource during the online workshop. (A retail value of \$28!)



**Grades 3-12**  
by Kristina Smekens  
& Dr. Maureen Scane

### WORKSHOP OUTLINE

#### Develop a yearlong vision

- See the big picture
- Plan with intention
- Massage the "mother lode"

#### Plan for multiple exposures

- Provide varied experiences
- Vary genres and stages
- Advance through the stages

#### Scaffold instruction across units

- Focus on the "trump" traits
- Address relevant conventions
- Vary writer support

#### Follow a systematic approach

- Design writing units in 5 steps
- Organize lesson materials
- Access digital planning tools

#### Create assessment resources

- Understand rubric basics
- Grow the rubric
- Convert rubric scores to grades

#### Total time to complete:

5-6 hours; (allotted time to complete the online workshop: 30 days)

### Instructor:

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

### When you complete the online workshop, you'll be able to:

- ✓ Organize grade-level writing standards and grammar skills to be taught within any writing unit.
- ✓ Embed the 6 Traits of Writing throughout the school year as you spiral through specific skills that are unique to each trait.
- ✓ Speed up or slow down a unit to meet the needs of your writers.
- ✓ Target isolated skills within intermittent "maintenance" mini-lessons throughout the year.
- ✓ Assess mastery of writing skills via grades or standards-based reporting.
- ✓ Teach writing with confidence and intentionality.

### Top questions teachers ask about launching writing

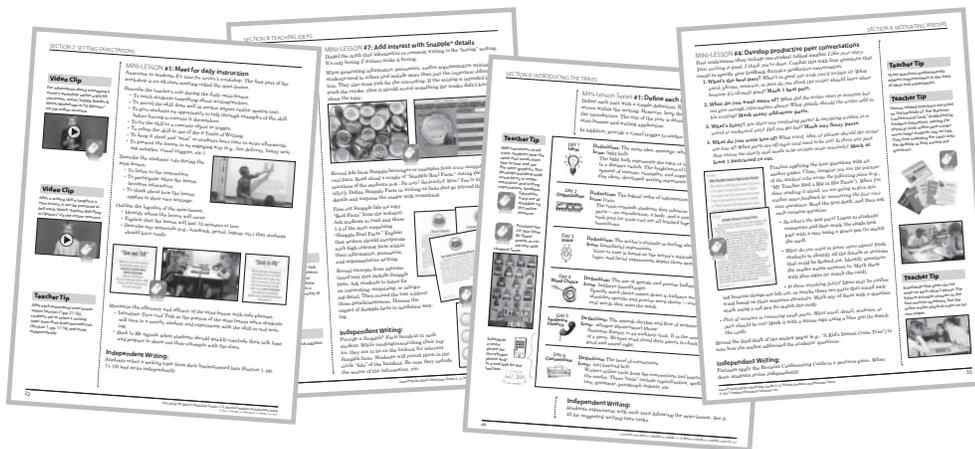
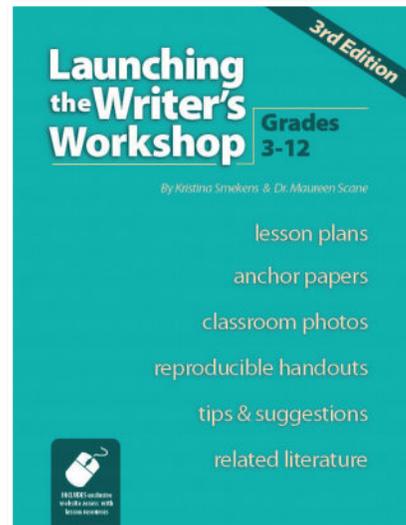
- ▶ How do I find time in my daily schedule for writing?
- ▶ How does a MS/HS teacher fit reading, writing, and grammar all into one class period?
- ▶ How do I integrate my writing standards within my writing units?
- ▶ How do I decide which skills I need to teach for each unit?
- ▶ How many times should students write in the same genre?
- ▶ How does grammar instruction fit into the writer's workshop?
- ▶ How often should I offer free choice versus prompted writing?
- ▶ How can I grade/assess their writing more efficiently?

*Kristina Smekens provides the answers to these questions and many more!*

# FREE DIGITAL BOOK Your handbook for teaching writing

The first seven sections of this resource will help you start (launch) your writer's workshop. They include procedural lessons and strategies essential for establishing classroom management and building writer independence. Depending on your grade level, this "launch" lasts three to six weeks.

Once you've launched your writing instruction, use sections 8-13 to help you plan the rest of your year. There are more than 50 detailed writing lessons organized by the 6 Traits of Writing. Each section identifies the lessons appropriate for the three modes of writing: persuasive/argumentative, informative, narrative.



### Continuing Education Credit

With prior approval from the registrant's school district, participants may receive credit for 6.25 hours of professional development for this webAcademy online workshop. Attendees who choose the "Verified View" option may download a completion certificate after completing the online workshop. For possible Illinois-approved credit, please contact our office, support@smekenseducation.com or call (888) 376-0448.

### Graduate Credit

Thanks to a partnership with the University of the Pacific, educators who enroll in a webAcademy workshop can earn 1, 2, or 3 graduate-level credits. (To earn graduate-level credit, participants must select the "Verified View" enrollment option. Graduate-level credit cost is separate from registration fees. Credits are \$62 each.)

Graduate-level credits offered through the University of the Pacific are non-degree credits which are designed for professional certification renewals and salary step increases. To learn more, contact our office, support@smekenseducation.com, or call (888) 376-0448.

## ABOUT THE PRESENTER

# 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 two full-time associates share those strategies with teachers across the United States and beyond through on-site school trainings, regional 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 an injection of motivation and encouragement to help them return to their classrooms with the confidence and excitement they need to execute change. In fact, more than 17,000 educators rely on a monthly “shot in the arm” from Kristina as subscribers to her monthly email newsletter, “Big Ideas.”

### 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*. Other popular publications include *The Trait Mate: 6-Traits Starter Lessons*, *Connecting Comprehension & Composition*, *Sing & Comprehend*, *Close Reading Questions for Literature*, *Close Reading Questions for Informational Text*, *Trait Trackers*, and *Serving Up Synthesis*. Additionally, Kristina is the author of *Trait-Based Writing: Lessons and Activities* (Scholastic, 2009).



### A CRAFTER

Beyond books and physical teacher tools, Kristina has also created a library of more than 50 on-demand professional learning videos that are utilized by teachers around the world. With topics ranging from “Building Kid-Friendly Writing Rubrics” to “Achieving a Close Reading,” each of Kristina’s “webPD” videos uses a seminar-style format to capture her energy and enthusiasm while conveying her teacher-friendly ideas.

### 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 past 12 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, their three teenage children, and a rambunctious family dog named Buddy.

“Kristina just takes the guess work out of everything to make it ALL make sense!”

**Nicki King** • Teacher,  
*Union Furnace Elementary,*  
*Logan, OH*

“I love how you made it abundantly clear the why and how to hone in with intentionality on the issues my kids are having rather than giving skimpy instruction on a plethora of topics just to say ‘we covered that.’ Now, I feel like I can create a road map that will make sense because it will be specifically tailored to their needs.”

**Priscilla Peterson** •  
*Teacher, Westfield Middle*  
*School Westfield, IN*

“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, Gilmer County*  
*High School, Glenville, WV*

“After 33 years of teaching, I still am drawn back into Kristina’s workshops because they are research-based, standards-focused, and very interactive.”

**Katie Cadle** • Teacher,  
*Paoli Community Schools,*

# Teaching Writing Skills All Year Long: Grades 3-12

## TWO WAYS TO ENROLL:

1. Online - with a credit card **Visit:** access.SmekensEducation.com
2. FAX THIS FORM - with a school purchase order to **888-376-0489**

## CHOOSE A VIEWING OPTION



### Flexible View

No completion certificates are awarded, but you have the flexibility to jump ahead in the video.



### Verified View

A completion certificate is available for download at the end of the online workshop video, but you do not have the flexibility to jump ahead.

## 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**.

## Group Registration Process

To register a group of teachers, complete the form on this page and fax it with a purchase order to webAcademy at 888-376-0489. 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.

## Secret Site Digital Resources

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

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

District/Diocese: \_\_\_\_\_

School name: \_\_\_\_\_

School address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

School phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**WEBACADEMY WORKSHOP FEE:** Online workshop sharing not allowed.

One person

**\$140**

Team of 3+

**\$126**  
per person

**More than 15?**

Call us at (888) 376-0448  
for custom pricing.

### PAYMENT:

Purchase Order attached (# \_\_\_\_\_)

**TOTAL PURCHASE AMOUNT:**

TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTRANTS: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE YOU WOULD LIKE TO START? \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

FLEXIBLE VIEW  VERIFIED VIEW

Name	Email
Name	Email