



# Launching the Writer's Workshop

Grades 3-12

*A framework of lessons to help launch your writing year*

THE NEXT BEST THING TO ATTENDING A LIVE SMEKENS WORKSHOP!

## Online Workshop Overview

Many teachers have confessed that they struggle to get their writer's workshop off the ground. *What should I do the first weeks of school? What are key lessons to jump-start my writing curriculum? How fast or slow should I move?* Regardless of the writing model you're currently using, this online workshop provides teachers in grades 3-12 with a powerful framework of lessons that can help launch their writing year. Throughout the workshop, teachers will have the opportunity to plot and plan their own instructional calendar for teaching writing during the first six weeks of school. At the end of the online workshop, teachers will be ready to launch their writer's workshop with their personalized blueprints in hand!



"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!"

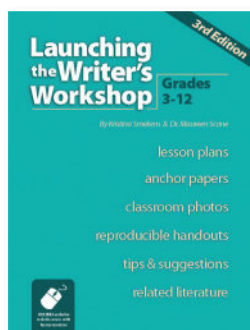
**Huston Mathias** • teacher at  
*Ingersoll Middle School, Canton, IL*

## Workshop Topics:

- Understand the four phases of the workshop launch.
- Learn classroom-tested routines and procedures to establish the writing environment.
- Set the tone that writing occurs daily.
- Receive organizational ideas for writers' notebooks.
- Learn day-by-day strategies to introduce the 6 Traits of Writing so teachers and students are using a common language.
- Balance free-choice writing topics with teacher-assigned topics.
- Receive ready-to-go lessons with supporting resources, activity pages, and authentic student writing samples.

## The book is included!

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



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

## WORKSHOP OUTLINE

### Phase #1: Writing Topics

- Write for different purposes; write about what you know; & generate ABC chart topics

### Phase #2: Setting Expectations

- Meet for daily instruction; describe the writing time; outline sharing time/ author's chair; support writers when they need help; & hold writer conferences

### Phase #2: Creating Notebooks

- Introduce the writer's notebook

### Phase #2: Motivating Writers

- Establish a *Done List*

### Phase #2: Developing Spelling

- Develop independent spellers & provide topic-driven word charts

### Phase #3: Introducing the Six Traits

- Define each trait visually & verbally; reveal mentor text examples; & sing trait-based songs

### Phase #4: Building Rubrics

- Define "rubric" & establish an initial writing rubric

### 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:

- ✓ Kick off the school year with a 20-day "game plan" for teaching writing.
- ✓ Establish routines to effectively manage a writer's workshop.
- ✓ Address common writer dependencies with procedural mini-lessons.
- ✓ Implement a writer's notebook in the classroom.
- ✓ Lead efficient and effective writing conferences with students.
- ✓ Develop a classroom writing rubric that students can use and understand.
- ✓ Transition from procedural lessons into the first writing unit.

## Top questions teachers ask about launching writing:

- ▶ Which workshop procedures are essential for effective classroom management?
- ▶ What physical spaces and places should I have within my classroom environment?
- ▶ How do I motivate my writers to use class time productively?
- ▶ How do I help my students develop more interesting writing topics?
- ▶ How can I motivate students to go beyond "fixing their mistakes" during revision?
- ▶ What are some proven methods for introducing students to the 6 Traits of Writing?
- ▶ How do I effectively organize my students' writings in notebooks, binders, or folders?

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

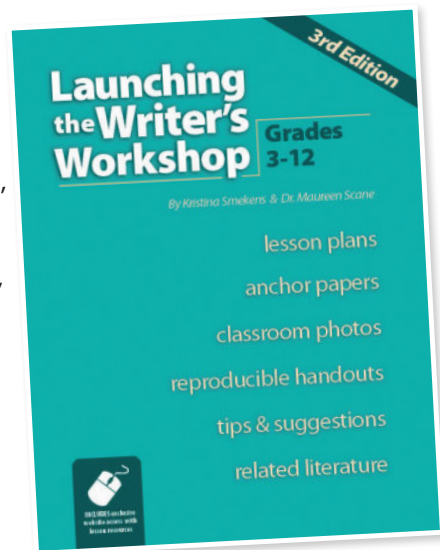
## FREE DIGITAL BOOK

# 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. However, these lessons are not to be taught in the sequence they are presented. Rather, spiral through them based on writer needs and the unit focus. Each section identifies the lessons appropriate for the three modes of writing: persuasive/argumentative, informative, narrative. Grade-level specific priority lessons are suggested per unit of study on pages 5-7.

A planning calendar (pp. 8-9) will help you plot and plan which lessons you'll utilize to launch and sustain your writer's workshop. (A PDF and editable Word version of this planning calendar are available via the online resource.)



## Continuing Education Credit

With prior approval from the registrant's school district, participants may receive credit for 5 hours of professional development for this webAcademy online workshop. Attendees who choose the "Verified View" viewing option may download a completion certificate after finishing the online workshop.

## Graduate Credit

Thanks to a partnership with the Midwest Teachers Institute, registrants may elect to pursue three university-level graduate credits after completing this workshop and the Teaching Writing Skills All Year Long: Grades 3-12 online workshop. These are non-degree credits designed for professional certification renewals and salary step increases. (Check with your district or employers to determine their policies for pay increases.) The cost of graduate credit is \$375 and is separate from the cost of each online workshop.

## Who would benefit from this online workshop?

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

## 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,*  
*Paoli, IN*

# Launching the Writer's Workshop: Grades 3-12

## TWO WAYS TO ENROLL:

**1. Online - with a credit card** *(Perfect for individuals!)*

**Visit:** access.SmekensEducation.com

**2. FAX THIS FORM - with a school purchase order to 888-376-0489**

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

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

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 10?**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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.