

Keys to Content Writing

.... a professional development course for grades 3-12 educators!

Would you like to learn evidence-based instructional practices for teaching writing across all subjects in grades 3-12? This course is just what you need!

The course covers these topics:

- Writing Basics
- Quick Writes
- Sentences & Paragraphs
- The Writing Process and scaffolds
- Summary Writing
- Three Types of Writing
- Writing from Sources



This practical course provides research-based teaching suggestions for writing instruction that can be integrated into any subject. The instructional practices are designed can be integrated with any writing curriculum or published writing program being used. The course is tightly aligned with state literacy standards.

The course takes approximately 12 hours (2 days) to complete and includes a training manual. View the course outline on the next page.

How can educators access the course?

Option 1 – Live Training: Participate in training delivered by Keys to Literacy trainers using a virtual-live format (using Zoom meeting software) or onsite at your school district.

Option 2 – Online Course (coming summer 2022): A companion *Keys to Content Writing* online course is available that covers the same content as live training. Take it as an asynchronous course, or use a hybrid-online format that includes virtual live facilitated meetings.

Contact Keys to Literacy to learn more:



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Keys to Content Writing

Writing Basics

- The “Writing Rope” and the “Not So Simple View of Writing”
- Research: What do we know about effective writing instruction?
- Connections to state standards
- Gradual release model and explicit instruction

Quick Writes

- Using quick writes to support subject learning
- Options for quick writes
- Scaffolds for quick writes

Sentences, Paragraph

- Sentences & paragraphs – foundations of successful writing
- Activities to grow student sentence writing ability
 - Sentence elaboration, sentence combining
- Paragraph structure
- Patterns of organization & related transition words/phrases
 - Description, sequence, cause & effect, compare & contrast, problem & solution

The Writing Process

- Stages of the writing process: Think, Plan, Write, Revise
- Explicit instruction for strategies across all stages
- Scaffolds for pre-writing: topic webs and two-column notes
- Scaffolds for writing: templates
- Focus for revision: sentences, transitions

Summary Writing

- Summarizing to support content learning and support writing responses
- How to teach summary writing
- Scaffolds for summary writing

Three Types of Writing

- Structure for the 3 types of writing
 - Informational
 - Opinion/Argument
 - Narrative
- Writing introductions and conclusions
- Topic webs to reflect text structure

Writing from Sources

- Prompts: Writing about content
- ANSWER Routine for responses to prompts
- Scaffolds to support comprehension and writing
 - Topic webs, two-column notes
- Motivating & engaging students

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