

Level Up Student Writing: Strategies for Grades 3-5



Session 1: Building a Foundation with Writing Data and Writing Focus Folders

Duration: 1 hour (45 minutes instruction, 15 minutes collaborative work)

Learning Targets:

1. Teachers will analyze student writing using STRIVE rubrics or state/district rubrics.
2. Teachers will create a Writing Focus Folder for their class.
3. Teachers will identify areas of strength and improvement for students in grades 3-5.

Note: A Writing Focus Folder is an instructional tool designed to help organize and track the progress of writers. The Writing Focus Folder provides a visual representation for teachers to monitor student performance and physically advance them through growth in writing performance according to the standards.

Collaborative Work:

Teachers bring their Writing Focus Folder completed to Session 2.

Session 2: Understanding Student Progressions and Key Indicators

Duration: 1 hour (45 minutes instruction, 15 minutes collaborative work)

Learning Targets:

1. Teachers will analyze their Writing Focus Folder and consider the end product of "Writing to Two Texts" based on student placement on the Focus Folder
2. Teachers will learn about the key indicators for moving students between scoring levels on rubrics (school/district/state).
3. Teachers will analyze their Writing Focus Folder and determine which group and key indicators they want to focus on for writing to two texts.

Collaborative Work:

Teachers will continue to analyze their Writing Focus Folder and come prepared to session 3 with the group and indicators they want to focus on.

Session 3: Strategies for Writing to Two Texts

Duration: 1 hour (45 minutes instruction, 15 minutes collaborative work)

Learning Targets:

1. Teachers will learn about "grab-and-go" activities for immediate use in instruction for writing to two texts.
2. Teachers will learn about Writing to Two Text Guides that they can use for teaching process writing.
3. Teachers will plan which activities to use and how they will use the guides.

Collaborative Work:

Teachers choose one activity and adapt it for their classroom before Session 4.

Session 4: Student Goal Setting and Action Plans

Duration: 1 hour (45 minutes instruction, 15 minutes collaborative work)

Learning Targets:

1. Teachers will set writing goals with students based on rubric scores.
2. Teachers will use strategies to help students track their writing progress.
3. Teachers will plan actionable steps for classroom implementation.

Collaborative Work:

Teachers develop individualized goals for at least three students to implement in their classrooms.