Getting to the Core of Good Writing

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The Core of Our Agenda

- An Overview of the Common Core Standards for Writing
- Writing in the Classroom
- Writing at Home
- Low tech ideas for motivating writers
- High tech ideas for motivating writers
- Questions?
The Common Core and Writing

The Common Core emphasizes writing.

- Kids are expected to write on a daily basis.
- There are three different types of writing:
  - Opinion/Argument
  - Informative/Explanatory
  - Narrative
- Use of technology is considered a given. Kids are expected to know how to use the internet and how to keyboard.
Three Types of Writing: Possible Genres

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Narrative</th>
<th>Opinion/Argument</th>
<th>Informative/Explanatory</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>personal narrative fiction: realistic, historical, fantasy narrative poetry narrative memoir</td>
<td>reviews op-ed literary essay persuasive letter petitions essay persuasive speech personal essay editorial research-based argument essay</td>
<td>recipe instructions/directions how-to all-about fact sheets informational essays reports lab reports literary essays memoir biography news article feature article blog website</td>
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Writing in the Classroom

Big Goals: Stamina and Independence

Tips for fostering stamina
● draw a line on the paper
● use shorter paper
● give breaks

Tips for fostering independence
● “Do what you think you should do!”
● Talk first
● Compliments
Writing at Home

- Writing together--like reading aloud, but instead you write.
- You write, I write—you begin the writing in one color. Your child continues in another.
- Use a tape recorder to get the writing out.
- Writing with a purpose
  - lists and signs
  - helpful notes, books and letters
  - problem solving
- Space and time for writing--consistency.
Low-Tech Ideas for Getting Your Kid Jazzed About Writing

- Never underestimate the power of bribery. Ex. “When you write to the bottom of the page, we can take a cookie break.”
- Swag: cool pens, fancy paper, post-its
- Write an opinion letter to the newspaper together. Kids love to complain about things and have many ideas for how to fix the world.
- Write what you know and love.
- Thank you notes, lists and invitations.
High-Tech Ideas for Writing

- **Opinion Writing:**
  - On-line reviews: Amazon, Goodreads
  - Petitions (change.org)

- **Narrative Writing:**
  - Movie-making software (imovie, Lego app)
  - Toontastic, a storytelling app to create cartoons while teaching kids about narrative structure (they also record the voices!)
  - Rory’s Story Cubes- a storytelling app that uses cubes to help kids generate story ideas.

- **Information Writing:**
  - seymoursimon.com Writing Wednesdays
  - Prezi and GoogleDocs
More High Tech Ideas

All types of writing:
● Paper by FiftyThree: students can write on the iPad and then you can save their notes.
● Doodlecast Pro: more cool writing on the iPad.
● flipsnack: free online app that allows you to make flip books with images and text.
● wordfaire: free live blogging.
● ePubBud: create your own ebook (like YouTube for books!)
● Storybird: free app for creating picture books using images from artists.
Questions?