

Writing the STAAR Essays

Hands on writing with Alice Nine

AGENDA

October 15 or October 17, 2019

8:00 - 8:15 WELCOME

- Introductions and business of the day
- Synopsis of online portion*

8:15 - 11:15 MORNING SESSION

- Scoring - holistic vs. analytical
- Design of STAAR prompts
- Form of expository essay
- Writing reservoirs and daily practice
- Getting inside the prompt and avoiding distractions
- Responding to prompt with clear central idea

11:15 AM - 12:15 LUNCH

12:15 - 2:45 AFTERNOON SESSION

- Planning the essay body with X-Builder
- Drafting the essay
- Revising the essay
- Recasting the "central idea" sentence

2:45 - 3:00 WRAP-UP

*Attached: Outline of online portion of PD

Connect / Follow Alice Nine



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Control at the word and sentence level is necessary for control at the paragraph and essay level.

Writing STAAR™ Essays 2020

an online course with Alice Nine for elementary teachers

Course Documents.

Module 1. Deciphering the Rubric

We will analyze the three writing traits and the student performance descriptors in the STAAR™ writing rubrics.

We will demystify the language of the rubrics in order to simplify and clarify how student writing will be assessed.

Module 2. Deconstructing the Prompt

We will closely examine each component of the expository prompt scaffold for the STAAR™ writing test in grade 4.

We will identify how students should use each component to support writing the essay for STAAR™.

Module 3. Developing the Essay

We will examine the structure and form of the expository essay and construct a graphic that represents each component.

We will develop an essay with a working thesis and the X-Builder.

Module 4. From Prompt to Essay

We will explore a step-by-step how-to with strategies that help struggling writers.

- Getting inside the prompt and avoiding distractions
- Responding to the prompt with a clear central idea
- Planning the essay body with supporting ideas and developing details
- Planning the conclusion based on the central idea and essay body

Module 5. Modeling from Prompt to Essay

We will experience a step-by-step model with released STAAR 2015 prompt.

- Getting inside the prompt
- Responding to the prompt
- Planning the essay
- Drafting the essay
- Revising the essay
- Writing a draft to submit

Resources.

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