

We are honored you are interested in previewing *Write Now – Right Now.* Providing some background information will help you understand how this program came about. We are currently teaching in a large district in Colorado. Terry teaches 4th grade and also serves as her building writing and ELA coach. Darlene serves as her elementary building writing and ELA coach. As writing coaches, we were able to see the struggle teachers had when teaching writing. Teachers knew **what** to teach in writing, but often struggled with the **how**. We had both been trained in 6-Traits and various other writing programs, but felt these programs fell short on their own with providing teachers both the **how** and the **next steps** of writing instruction. Writing programs embedded within reading series were also lacking, as they are created by reading specialists, not writing specialists. Many of us fell back on asking our students to write more, believing the more they write, the better writers they will become. However, we believe the opposite is true. Students will improve on what they practice, even if that means they practice poor writing habits. It is therefore essential that in order to become proficient writers, students must practice good writing habits.

Another issue that arose year after year was the lack of uniformity in writing instruction across the grade levels. As we went into classrooms, we noticed that our students were not bringing with them the skills they learned the previous years. Students were starting each year from scratch, as the language and tools used for writing varied from teacher to teacher. *Write Now - Right Now* provides a solution for that issue. Our program uses common language and common tools in the elementary grades. As students move from one grade level to the next, they use the skills already learned as they add new skills to their knowledge. This leads to better student writing as students have a stronger foundation with which to start the year.

*Write Now - Right Now* came to be because teachers asked us to put together lesson plans to show them how to help their students become better writers. The program is based on a simple philosophy. We wanted to create a quality program that is easy to follow and enjoyable to teach, while engaging students. Writing skills, taught and practiced well, equip students with the ability to communicate their thoughts and knowledge in writing. These lessons have been used with elementary students by elementary teachers, so we know they work. We both use these lessons on a daily basis and all lessons were written with the 6 traits as our guide. This program was created and implemented by two practicing teachers.

As we began to put the program together, we used the ”Backward Design” framework designed by Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe. We studied standards and then talked to classroom teachers, asking “What is it that you want your students to be able to do?” Once we had that framework, we determined the skills students needed to have in order to achieve this goal. We designed lessons to get them from point A to point B. For example, one goal was to have students compose a well-written paragraph. What skills do they need to achieve this outcome? They need to be able to write a sentence, generate ideas, organize their ideas, write a clear topic sentence, etc. Our lessons focus on providing these necessary skills.

Believing that students need plenty of time to practice each new skill, we encourage teachers to “Go slow to go fast.” Practice activities and opportunities are included in each lesson. Once students have the basic foundational skills, they will be able to transfer those skills across all curricular areas.

Thank-you for the opportunity to share *Write Now – Right Now* with you. We would be honored to answer any additional questions you or your team may have concerning the program. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Happy Writing,

Darlene and Terry

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