

Technology and Improved Student Writing: Stretch to Proficiency

EDUO 9128 2 Semester Credits/Units

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Course Description:





Instructive research on "90/90/90 schools" - 90% poverty, 90% minority, and 90% proficient – gives insights into strategies that support struggling writers. Two key approaches involve calibrated scoring practices as well as a focus on non-fiction. In this course, we examine research recommendations, apply them to our classrooms, and layer on powerful technology options to make a difference for at-risk students.

Note: *This course requires several collaborative activities. Therefore, you must register with at least one other person from your district, school, grade level, or subject area. You will work on these activities together at your own pace.*




Syllabus:

This is a 30-hour, self-paced online course leading to 2 Semester Credits/Units.

Goals/Objectives




-  Develop a deep understanding of high-leverage strategies for writing instruction.
-  Identify online resources for non-fiction reading and writing.
-  Participate in collaborative scoring exercises.
-  Learn about and use technology tools to support writing instruction, especially for Grades 3-12.

Outcomes



-  Learn and practice technology tools to support success in writing.
-  Develop ways to elicit regular written performance assessment
-  Participate in collaborative rubric-building and scoring calibration activities

Course Outline – Learning Activities




Lesson 1: Getting Started – What the Research Says

-  Course Overview
-  Read article about the “90/90/90” schools and post 50 pts
-  Read article on indicators of success and post 50 pts



Lesson 2: Common Core “Shifts” English/Language Arts

-  Read article on the shifts CCSS requires for ELA and post. 50 pts
-  Read article on CCSS and its impact on instruction and post. 50 pts





Lesson 3: Focus on Non-Fiction Writing

-  Presentation: Resources for non-fiction reading materials online
-  Develop a writing assignment based on one highlighted resource 50 pts
-  Try the assignment with your students and post 100 pts






Lesson 4: Technology Tools – Graphic Organizers

-  Video Presentation: Graphic organizers online and on iPad
-  Create two samples and post to forum 50 pts



Lesson 5: Technology Tools – Collaborative Writing

-  Read excerpts from Carnegie Institute’s “Writing Next” and post 50 pts
-  Presentation: Online resources for collaborative writing
-  Create one sample and post to forum. 50 pts
-  Try one of the resources with students and post the experience 100 pts

Lesson 6: Power of Feedback

-  Online Guide: Giving Better Feedback
-  Readings: Strategies for giving feedback
-  Your practice, your feedback – a comprehensive post 50 pts
-  Exploration: Online rubric builders
-  Build a rubric using one of the resources and post 50 pts

Lesson 7: Calibrated Scoring

-  Calibration Exercises: Participate in successive evaluations of student writing using a standard rubric 100 pts
-  Evaluate the experience of shared calibrated scoring 50 pts

Course Conclusion

-  Final Reflections 20 pts
-  Course Evaluation

Evaluation & Grading

Student work will be evaluated using rubrics to rate participation, technical work, and posts.