

Writing After a Close Reading

ON-DEMAND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING ROOTED IN BEST-PRACTICE STRATEGIES

Course Overview

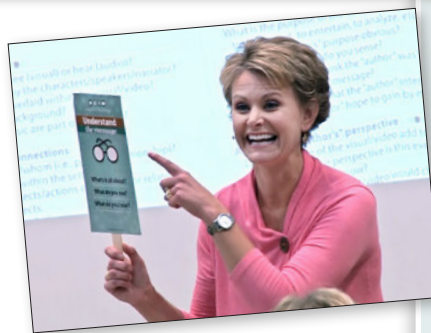
After reading a complex text, students need to do something with what they learned. More than simply summarizing the text, students need to analyze and even argue the author's ideas in writing.

Topics:

- Provide opportunities for appropriately rigorous tasks that include brief constructed responses and longer extended responses.
- Identify complex tasks that target a variety of purposes, including persuasive, argumentative, informative, and narrative writing.
- Reiterate the importance of juggling multiple texts, including print, digital, video, and visual texts.
- Target multiple ways for students to remember key details and record their inferences while reading, so they can reference that evidence after reading.
- Acquire strategies for teaching students to make text-to-text connections in order to draw comparisons and synthesize multiple ideas.

When you complete the course, you'll be able to:

- ▶ Assemble text sets (2-4 texts) on a common concept or theme to make new and significant after-reading inferences.
- ▶ Create various after-reading tasks that require evidence-based responses.
- ▶ Show students how to use their during-reading annotations to support their after-reading writing.
- ▶ Teach students how to take notes and cite evidence from videos and visuals.



"Kristina is clearly an expert in the field of reading & writing in education. (She) offers clear, relatable, & achievable goals for implementation. The 'secret' website is also an invaluable resource. I have a step-by-step guide to implementing close reading & writing after close reading. I can get started right away!"

Nicole Scurlock •

Teacher, Knightstown High School, Knightstown, IN

"It has changed the way I'm going to attack writing in my classes. More collaboration. More frequency. Fewer drafts. Fewer grades."

Libby Shogren •

Teacher, Wauconda Community High School, Wauconda, IL

COURSE OUTLINE

Complex Tasks

- Write about reading
- Choose among three tasks
- Scaffold writing experiences

Literary Analysis Task

- Draft the after-reading writing task
- Track development, relationships, & perspectives
- Compare and evaluate texts

Narrative Writing Task

- Draft the after-reading writing task
- Grasp plot exposition
- Maintain characterization

Research Writing Task

- Draft the after-reading writing task
- Make comparisons across texts
- Synthesize and argue a perspective

Total time to complete course:

5-6 hours

(Allotted time to complete course: 30 days)

Instructor:

Kristina Smekens

President & Lead Consultant for Smekens Education Solutions, Inc.

“Thank you for being a **reliable & current** source of best practice!”

Angela Decker • Teacher, Delta Middle School, Muncie, IN

Who would benefit from this course?

Teachers Grades 2-12
Literacy Coaches
Literacy Coordinators
Title I Teachers & Coordinators
ELL Teachers & Coordinators
High-Ability Teachers
Principals & Assistant Principals
Curriculum Directors

Direct Ties to Standards

The strategies shared during this webAcademy course mirror the grade-level expectations outlined within the reading and writing portions of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Indiana Academic Standards.



Continuing Education Credit

With prior approval from the registrant's school district, participants may receive credit for 5 hours of professional development for this webAcademy course. At the conclusion of the course, registrants may download a Certificate of Completion which can be used to verify participation.

Graduate Credit

Thanks to a partnership with the Midwest Teachers Institute, registrants may elect to pursue three university-level graduate credits after completing this course and the Planning & Facilitating a Close Reading course. These are non-degree credits designed for professional certification renewals and salary step increases. (Check with your district or employers to determine their policies for pay increases.) The cost of graduate credit is \$300 and is separate from the cost of each web course.

Why learn more about close reading?

1. Close reading is key to college and career readiness.

Research shows that even our brightest students are struggling with college-level courses because they lack the skills to read and understand complex text. Kristina will provide practical ways to engage students in close reading so that they have the skills to ultimately tackle any complex text independently.

2. Planning and facilitating a close reading needs to be intentional.

Achieving a close reading of complex text is largely about asking the right questions at the right time. Kristina will guide teachers to first generate questions that determine what the text says and culminate with questions that determine why the text matters.

3. Writing in response to text improves comprehension.

Writing a brief constructed response or a coherent extended response to complex text is an important facet of the close-reading process. Kristina will share dozens of after-reading writing prompts that require students to demonstrate a deep understanding of the text.

Top questions teachers ask about . . .

Writing after a close reading

- ▶ What are the different types of writing tasks that follow a close-reading experience?
- ▶ How do I teach students to incorporate both textual evidence and an explanation of how their evidence supports their thinking?
- ▶ Where can I find writing prompts that I can customize to fit my unique texts but that also mirror the tasks students will face on state and national standardized assessments?
- ▶ What do “good” written responses look and sound like? Where can I find examples?

Kristina provides the answers to these questions and many more!



Secret Site Digital Resources

Registrants receive lifetime access to a password-protected web page that contains a treasure trove of lessons, videos, and other resources for implementation.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER

Kristina Smekens

Kristina Smekens is a full-time literacy consultant who has built a reputation for using enthusiasm, humor, and common sense to equip K-12 educators with practical, demystifying strategies for teaching reading and writing.

As president and lead consultant for Smekens Education, Kristina is constantly developing new strategies for helping teachers to meet the demands of today's College and Career-Ready Standards. She and her two full-time associates share those strategies with teachers across the United States and beyond through on-site school trainings, regional seminars, and an always-growing pool of print, digital, and video resources.

A PRESENTER

Kristina has a gift for making the complex seem simple—for showing teachers how to meet the needs of readers and writers by bridging the gap between education research and practical, classroom-tested strategies that work. When she presents at state and national conferences, teachers flock to her sessions because they know Kristina will share strategies they can use in their own classrooms the very next day.

But beyond providing teachers with practical classroom techniques, Kristina is also a master at giving educators an injection of motivation and encouragement to help them return to their classrooms with the confidence and excitement they need to execute change. In fact, more than 17,000 educators rely on a monthly “shot in the arm” from Kristina as subscribers to her monthly email newsletter, “Big Ideas.”

AN AUTHOR

Well known for offering innovative ideas, Kristina has created more than 50 “Smekens Originals,” a compilation of books, guides, and classroom tools designed to help teachers implement best-practice literacy strategies. Among the most popular of these resources are her best-selling books, *Launching the Writer's Workshop: Grades K-2* and *Grades 3-12*. Other popular publications include *The Trait Mate: 6-Traits Starter Lessons*, *Connecting Comprehension & Composition*, *Sing & Comprehend*, *Close Reading Questions for Literature*, *Close Reading Questions for Informational Text*, *Trait Trackers*, and *Serving Up Synthesis*. Additionally, Kristina is the author of *Trait-Based Writing: Lessons and Activities* (Scholastic, 2009).



A CRAFTER

Beyond books and physical teacher tools, Kristina has also created a library of more than 50 on-demand training videos that are utilized by teachers around the world. With topics ranging from “Building Kid-Friendly Writing Rubrics” to “Achieving a Close Reading,” each of Kristina’s “webPD” videos uses a seminar-style format to capture her energy and enthusiasm while conveying her teacher-friendly ideas.

BACKGROUND

Kristina earned her BA in English and education at Michigan State University. Prior to her full-time consulting career, she was an accomplished high school English and journalism teacher in Michigan and Indiana. A leader in state and national scholastic journalism endeavors, Kristina authored a journalism textbook and teachers’ guide for Walsworth Publishing in 2002.

Over the past 12 years, she has been blessed to work and learn with hundreds of schools and thousands of teachers throughout the Midwest. She was awarded the Excellence in Reading Award by the Indiana State Reading Association in 2013 for her contributions to literacy in Indiana.

Kristina lives in Warren, Indiana with her husband and business partner Brady, their three teenage children, and a rambunctious family dog named Buddy.

“Kristina just takes the guess work out of everything to make it ALL make sense!”

Nicki King • Teacher,
Union Furnace
Elementary, Logan, OH

“Kristina was fantastic! She was very intentional in her approach to teaching the 6 Traits and making it interesting for all learners! I learned new and exciting strategies to improve student writing.”

Jenae McKnight •
Instructional Coach, Lake
Ridge New Tech Schools,
Gary, IN

“I love the way Kristina presents the information with so much enthusiasm. I love how she builds on what she’s taught before.”

Kristen Smith • Teacher,
Gilmer County High
School, Glenville, WV

“After 33 years of teaching, I still am drawn back into Kristina’s workshops because they are research-based, standards-focused, and very interactive.”

Katie Cadle • Teacher,
Paoli Community
Schools, Paoli, IN

Writing After a Close Reading

TWO WAYS TO ENROLL:

1. Online - with a credit card *(Perfect for individuals!)*

Visit: www.webAcademy.SmekensEducation.com

2. FAX THIS FORM - with a school purchase order to 888-376-0489

Contact Person: _____

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School name: _____

School address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

School phone: _____

COURSE FEE: Course sharing not allowed.

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Name _____ Email _____

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TERMS OF USE

We encourage enrolled participants to take advantage of all the features webAcademy has to offer. In doing so, participants agree to the following terms of use:

- 1** Login information and video access may NOT be shared with any individual who is not enrolled in the course.
- 2** Unauthorized sharing of login access will result in a non-refundable cancellation of any and all active courses.
- 3** Subscribers are not permitted to reprint, republish, repost or otherwise distribute any content or images from a course.

MUST AGREE & SIGN

☐ _____
By checking & signing, you agree with the **Terms of Use**.

Group Registration Process

To register a group of teachers, complete the form on this page and fax it with a purchase order to webAcademy at 888-376-0489. After a purchase order is received, a professional development specialist will email each registrant with instructions for accessing the course.

webAcademy
BY SMEKENS EDUCATION

Each webAcademy course features engaging online professional development led by Smekens Education President and Lead Consultant, Kristina Smekens. Designed for individual or group use, every self-paced course consists of video footage from one of Kristina's full-day workshops.

In addition to delivering 5+ hours of professional development, webAcademy courses also include opportunities for educators to reflect and comment on what they are learning. Registrants are granted 30 days to complete the course but receive lifetime access to a password-protected web page that contains a treasure trove of lessons, videos, and other resources for implementation.