Writing Instruction and the Common Core

Summary of Presentation:
Implementation of the Common Core is currently on every educator’s mind. And for many states, lurking behind is the PARCC assessment. How are teachers to adequately prepare and adjust while meeting the needs of their students? One area that has seen significant changes and shifts with the common core is writing instruction. With a de-emphasis on narrative writing and a heavy focus on utilizing non-fiction texts and argumentative and informative writing, many classroom teachers are searching for guidance and resources.
Ultimately, students need direction and assistance to become effective communicators in the 21st century world. Although the task of implementing the Common Core writing standards appears a bit daunting, if it is taken step-by-step, Common Core becomes the impetus for teachers to guide students through the production of high quality, critically constructed written communication. Vicky’s steps can be applied to a wide range of grade levels and content areas.

Speaker Biography:
Dr. Victoria Tusken has been an educator for almost 25 years, starting her career in early childhood, but spending most of her time in middle school education. She is currently a 7th grade language arts teacher at Geneva Middle School South, in Geneva, Illinois. She is also an adjunct professor at Northern Illinois University, where she teaches courses in middle school curriculum, methodology, and adolescent development. She has presented popular webinars on middle school classroom management for KDP. She and her husband are avid outdoors people.

Time of Webcast: 1 hour and 12 minutes (question session starts at 1:02:12)

Intended Audience: Middle and High School Language Arts and English Teachers

Objectives:
Through this webinar, participants will:
• Learn how to shift the focus to more argumentative and informative writing,
• Review the steps necessary for text selection, and understand the range in complexity of texts,
• Get tips for integrating technology and multimedia successfully, and
• Acquire tools for covering the most significant grammar and language conventions.

Pre-Questions on the topic:
• How familiar are you with the Common Core or your state writing standards for your grade level?
• What can you do to better understand the writing standards for your grade?
Questions to Answer During or Immediately After the Webcast:

- In what ways have you begun to internalize “the shift” from narrative to argumentative and informational writing?
- How have you begun to utilize graphic organizers to assist you and your students in producing quality, well-supported writing pieces? Do you know where to access such graphic organizers? List three resources that are becoming your “go-to” places.
- What are some of the ways you can utilize technology to expand or define audience and focus?
- How are you or do you plan to integrate grammar instruction into the writing process?

Questions for Further Exploration:

- Where can you find text with appropriate complexity for students? Do you know where to go to acquire quality resources for informational texts to use in argumentative and informative writing?
- How do we get colleagues to implement this type of writing in other content areas?

Self-Reflection, Enrichment, and Extension Ideas (take and incorporate into your own teaching):

- Take time to incorporate research into your own writing. How can you infuse research into your teaching of writing?
- In what ways can you teach students to think critically, analyze information and solve problems through their writing?

Additional Recommended KDP Resources:

Articles

Other Webcasts
Tusken, Vicky, “Writing Instruction and the Common Core Part Two”
Gardineer, Margaret, “Common Core Standards in English Language Arts”
Helgeson, John, “Flipping the English Classroom”

Web links mentioned in the webinar:
Text Project: [http://textproject.org](http://textproject.org)
Cobblestone/Cricket Magazine: [https://cobblestonepub.com](https://cobblestonepub.com)
Library of Congress: [http://www.loc.gov/teachers](http://www.loc.gov/teachers)
Student Achievement Partners: [http://www.achievethecore.org](http://www.achievethecore.org)

Free templates-

Check the KDP Web site ([www.kdp.org](http://www.kdp.org)) for additional and updated resources.