

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR WRITING IN YOUR SCHOOL

## PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

If there's anything standards-based learning has taught us, it is the value of students reading and writing every day in every subject. Conclusions from research of school reform demonstrate that consistent writing overcomes low student performance on tests of knowledge in all subjects. The research of Douglas Reeves concludes that the greatest gains in achievement arise from

*consistent non-fiction assessments of what students are learning in every subject (The Learning Leader, ASCD, 2005).*

Rick Stiggins' research adds the important role of student self-assessment. Rei Noguchi establishes sentence-combining instruction as the most effective way to teach grammar. These conclusions offer sound advice; they also confirm and refine what *Writing to Win* has been about since the mid 1980s. Your students deserve the best instruction available today.

Below is a list of commonly-voiced problems that we hear. Following each is the *Writing to Win* solution that has worked for others. If you recognize any of these problems in your school/district, contact us to arrange a *Writing to Win* solution.

<p><b>PROBLEM:</b> <i>Our teachers find it hard to get students to write daily about what they are learning.</i></p> <p><b>SOLUTION:</b>  Journal-writing routines for critical thinking across the curriculum</p>	<p><b>PROBLEM:</b> <i>Our teachers say their students feel unprepared for the state writing assessment.</i></p> <p><b>SOLUTION:</b>  Mock Writing Test Workshop for grades 2 – 11*</p>
<p><b>PROBLEM:</b> <i>Achievement gaps in our students' performances are persisting and/or widening.</i></p> <p><b>SOLUTION:</b>  Journal routines; Sentence Building routines</p>	<p><b>PROBLEM:</b> <i>Our teachers tire under the load of grading and returning papers on time.</i></p> <p><b>SOLUTION:</b>  Reliable Scoring Session*; First Draft Response Form</p>
<p><b>PROBLEM:</b> <i>Our teachers struggle to get students to produce long writing projects.</i></p> <p><b>SOLUTION:</b>  Process-writing routines for long writing across the curriculum</p>	<p><b>PROBLEM:</b> <i>Our plans for writing tend to dissipate after the first year of implementation.</i></p> <p><b>SOLUTION:</b>  Jumpstart Workshop*</p>
<p><b>PROBLEM:</b> <i>Our teachers teach language skills separate of the writing process.</i></p> <p><b>SOLUTION:</b>  Sentence Building routines</p>	<p><b>PROBLEM:</b> <i>How do we know that our students are getting the most out of our instructional programs?</i></p> <p><b>SOLUTION:</b>  Action Research Focus Studies*</p>
<p><b>PROBLEM:</b> <i>Our teachers need help succeeding with student self-assessment.</i></p> <p><b>SOLUTION:</b>  Rubric for students to use in rating every piece of their writing</p>	<p><b>PROBLEM:</b> <i>We need a trained building leader to help our teachers utilize writing across the curriculum.</i></p> <p><b>SOLUTION:</b>  Coaches Workshop*</p>

*\*Please contact us for availability in your area.*

**WRITING TO WIN SOLUTIONS:** *Journal for Writing Across the Curriculum, Resource Guide for process writing, Sentence Building, Mock Writing Test Workshop, Reliable Scoring Session, Coaches Workshop, Jumpstart Workshop, Action Research Focus Study, Exemplary School of Writing Recognition (see attachment on Writing to Win professional learning).*



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