



This training focuses on concrete writing strategies that support the use of Writers' Workshop and help teachers increase their students' performance on state writing tests at all levels.

- DATE:** July 22-23, 2009 **TIME:** 8:00am – 4:00pm
- LOCATION:** On the Campus of Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN
Collegedale Church—Fellowship Hall
- COST:** \$179/teacher (includes teacher materials and lunch each day)
- BRING:** Course standards and/or a textbook

The sessions include the following elements:

- Learning rituals and routines that effectively teach each step of the writing process.
- Focusing on the *genre* of narrative, persuasive and expository (informational) writing.
- Scoring student writing using a standard writing rubric to achieve reliability.
- Using a primary-trait rubric to streamline teacher commentaries of first drafts.
- Conditioning students to successful revising and proofreading (editing).
- Using student-friendly rubrics for peer-revision and peer-evaluation.
- Measuring growth in writing with reliable pretests and posttests.
- Creating and administering writing topic prompts similar to state and national writing assessments.

Name _____ **Title** _____

School Name _____ **District** _____

School Address

School Phone # _____ **Home Phone #** _____

School E-mail _____

Home E-mail _____

_____ Check here if you are interested in receiving PLU credit for this workshop.

Grade level of materials that I prefer for this workshop (please circle one):

K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

<p>Workshop Questions? contact Ingrid Jones <i>ijones@catoosa.k12.ga.us</i> – 423-504-5636</p>
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<p>Mail your completed registration form with payment to Erincort Consulting, 1231 Founder's Blvd., Athens, Georgia 30606 (706) 850-5854 – FAX# (706) 543-6306</p>
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Genre Writing Boosts Performance on Writing Assessment

Writing to Win focus studies action research in classrooms

Tiger Creek Elementary School—How the *Writing to Win Working Portfolio for Students* impacted student performance on the Georgia Grade 5 writing assessment.

Teacher	2007	2008	Change
Beginning teachers of writing	52%	76%	+24%
Veteran teachers of writing	68%	78%	+10%

Writing Cycle Packets bring the students of beginning teachers of writing up to the standard in nine weeks. **In 2007**, for the benefit of student performance across the curriculum, the principal at Tiger Creek Elementary asked two **5th-grade ELA teachers** new to teaching writing to prepare their home room classes for the 2007 Georgia Writing Assessment. Their students performed 16% lower than students in classes with veteran teachers of writing.

The next year, a *Writing to Win* consultant trained the two teachers, using the *Writing Cycle Packets for Students* in the **informational** and **persuasive genres**. As indicated in the chart below, the 16% performance gap between students of veteran and new teachers of writing all but disappeared on the 2008 Georgia Grade 5 Writing Assessment.

In 2007 the Georgia Grade 8 Writing Assessment performance standards were changed for the **expository** and **persuasive** genres of writing. “In the middle of all the changes, I just became overwhelmed,” a teacher at Twiggs County Middle School explained. “The next year when Dr. Combs presented our school with the *Writing Cycle Packets for Students* and *Teachers* for the four genres of our state curriculum, I was ecstatic. They helped me regain

Writing to Win focus studies action research in classrooms

Twiggs County Middle School—How *Writing Cycle Packets* impacted student performance on the Georgia Grade 8 Writing Assessment.

Group	2007	2008	Change
Twiggs County Grade 8	42.5%	65.7%	+23.2%
State of Georgia	70.1%	77.0%	+6.9%

control in the teaching of writing. The next year, 65.7% of the students met the state standard for the writing test, a remarkable 23.2% increase over the previous 8th graders. It was a time for celebration in this rural school district in middle Georgia.