

CRAFTING WRITERS: WRITING INSTRUCTION THAT ENGAGES ALL LEARNERS

Grades 3-8



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Many elementary and middle school teachers who teach the craft of writing do not always see their efforts transfer into students' independent writing. In this workshop, Elizabeth Hale presents teaching specific craft techniques as a way to move below grade-level as well as advanced writers in tangible ways. With the idea that voice and writing with detail are descriptions of where we want our students to be, not next steps on how to reach these goals, Elizabeth will offer strategies that make craft lessons clear, attainable and enjoyable for students. This workshop for teachers in grades 3-8 will also look at the connection between specific craft techniques and effective conferences that teach students their strengths and clear next steps.

Teachers will learn practical strategies for:

- Teaching specific craft techniques that support sentence fluency, description and voice
- Increasing student ownership of craft techniques taught
- Teaching mechanics through the lens of craft
- Addressing and supporting grade-level spelling and run-on sentence concerns
- Teaching effective, strength driven writing conferences
- Motivating below grade-level and unenthusiastic writers
- Conferring with students whose writing is already descriptive and full of voice



Elizabeth Hale

teaches in the Education department at Emmanuel College in Boston, where she specializes in undergraduate and graduate literacy courses. She

also works as a literacy consultant in the Boston Public School system, where she previously worked as a teacher and literacy coach for eight years. As a national consultant, Elizabeth works with schools and school districts around the country on the teaching of writing and implementing writers' workshop. Elizabeth is the author of *Crafting Writers, K-6* (Stenhouse 2008).



What makes Crafting Writers so valuable is that it gives us a process to name the specific qualities of craft that comprise more general and nebulous concepts like "strong voice" and "good description." By showing us how to gather and describe craft techniques, and then how to teach them in writing conferences and lessons, Liz Hale shows us how to make good writing more tangible for our students

— Lucy Calkins

ELIZABETH HALE

About the Presenter