

WHAT REALLY MATTERS ON THE NJASK: BUMPING UP TEST SCORES AND MEETING AYP

Grades 3-8



July 7, 2011 • Crowne Plaza Hotel, Edison, NJ

In this highly practical workshop, participants will find out how to assess student writing based on the qualities of good writing that matter most on the NJASK writing sections. Numerous strategies that are differentiated to meet the needs of all learners and work across the main genres tested on the NJASK will be shared. Meredith will demonstrate how test prep becomes engaging, fun, and differentiated to ensure that all students succeed. The best part of this differentiated workshop, is how teacher-friendly it is! The NJASK strategies provided can be used and reinforced the entire year.

Meredith's background in teaching students with IEPs and English Language learners, makes this workshop ideal for teachers of all populations.

Meredith Serota Alvaro is a full time literacy staff developer and coach in the NY/NJ metro area. Prior to becoming a full time literacy coach and staff developer, Meredith served as the Director of Student Teaching in the Elementary Inclusive Preservice Program at Teachers College, Columbia University as well as held a tenured NYC public school teacher position at PS 116 in Manhattan's former District 2.

Meredith studied balanced literacy with Lucy Calkins at Teachers College and honed her classroom skills as a demonstration lab site for visiting groups of teachers from around the nation. Meredith has significant experience in both general and special education inclusion settings. Her work in the classroom focuses on developing strategies to successfully differentiate and adapt literacy curriculum to assess and support the needs all learners. She has experience working with ELLs, as well as students with significant learning challenges.

In recent years, Meredith's coaching work, which spans levels PreK-8, has taken her through a range of school environments including public, private, and early childhood religious schools. Her work often centers around launching and supporting the workshop model, data driven conferring and assessment, differentiation, standardized test preparation strategies, guiding teachers through the development of units of study, and generating literacy strategies to meet the needs of special education and basic skills teachers.

Meredith's work and classroom have been acknowledged in several publications including Writing about Reading: From Book Talk to Literary Essays, Grades 3-8 (Angelilo, 2003) and Voices of Diversity: Stories, Activities, and Resources for the Multicultural Classroom (Langer de Ramirez, 2006). Meredith holds permanent New York and New Jersey state certification.

About the Presenter

WOW – Meredith is fabulous! Every single evaluation was glowing and I had many more verbal comments. She is knowledgeable, prepared, approachable, etc etc.

**Supervisor,
Princeton School District**

Thank you for the wonderful, informative, helpful workshops this year! You have very strongly impacted my teaching. I am seeing improvement even in my most struggling writers!

**Teacher,
South Brunswick School District**

WOW! She was amazing. We all wished we had more time with her...all of the teachers were so impressed. They are all excited to try her ideas in their classrooms. To be honest, I go to PD workshops all of the time and I see many well-known presenters such as Lucy Calkins, Katie Wood Ray, and Fountas/Pinnell. I would truly rank her among the best presenters!

**Literacy Coach,
Holmdel Public Schools**

MEREDITH SEROTA ALVARO