



*Crowne Plaza, Edison, NJ*

## WHOLE CLASS MINI- LESSONS IN THE WRITER'S WORKSHOP, ALIGNED TO THE COMMON CORE

PRESENTED BY BERIT GORDON • *Grades 5-8*

**8:30 - 11:30**

Mini-lessons are one of the core components of writing workshop, and every minute counts. Mini-lessons should focus the class, be tailored to students' needs, generate from conferring observations, and inspire students to write well. Using Nancy Atwell and Lucy Calkin's works among other premier educators, we will look at common pitfalls and how to avoid them, models of strong mini-lessons, strategies for designing high-quality mini-lessons, and how to generate our own with guidance and conferring. In addition, we will consider how this aspect of the writing workshop can support and align to the Common Core standards. Many practical strategies and models will be shared so teachers can leave with multiple entry points for strengthening their mini-lessons, while also working toward the rigorous standards of the Common Core.

**Berit Gordon** offers many years of experience teaching writing in grades 5-12, and at the graduate school level. She currently teaches writing-based English education courses at the Teachers College of Columbia University and at Seton Hall University. She has an intense love of the classroom that has enabled her to serve as a mentor and model teacher in New York City public schools, as well as an instructor to teachers headed into the field of English education. Through her years of writing instruction, Berit has developed practices that help students feel welcomed in the classroom and inspired to contribute and help their peers. Her methodology promotes critical thought, thus challenging her students in the writing process to read closely, think analytically, and express themselves clearly.



*March 22, 2012*

## NONFICTION READING AND WRITING

PRESENTED BY REBECCA BASCIO

*Grades 5-8*

**12:30 - 3:00**

How can we, as educators, support our students to become facile, critical readers and writers who are able to read and respond to a wide variety of non-fiction texts? This workshop will offer a variety of practical strategies and structures (aligned with the common core literacy standards) to support students of all levels, from those who are considered 'at-risk' or reluctant to readers and writers who operate at or above grade level. Teachers will be challenged to consider WHAT their students need and HOW they can push their literacy learning to the next level.

**Rebecca Bascio** was a Literacy Coach for New York City's Region 9. Prior to coaching Rebecca taught Humanities in a District 2 middle school, utilizing a Balanced Literacy model. While there, she also conducted guided reading groups as a Literacy teacher for middle school children considered "at-risk". As a coach, Rebecca has designed and conducted a variety of Professional Development sessions, workshops and study groups around such topics as backwards planning, literacy in the content areas, the workshop model and guided reading.