

# **Best Practices in Teaching Writing: What Every Teacher Should Know**

## **A Professional Development Program presented by Southcentral Pennsylvania Writing Project**

Introductory program for elementary teachers and secondary English teachers  
6 sessions of 2½ hours each

Recommended as an after-school program from 4:00-6:30 p.m. with voluntary participation. As these sessions build on one another, it is important that teachers commit to attending all 6 sessions.

All programs are presented by practicing K-college teachers who are Teacher Consultants with Southcentral Pennsylvania Writing Project.

### **Outline of Sessions**

1. Why is Writing Hard to Teach and How Can I Make it Easier?
2. Teacher Conferencing: The Heart of Writing Workshop
3. Peer conferencing: Can Kids Really Do This?
4. Favorite Authors as Teachers
5. Meeting Standards, seeing progress, quantifying learning, celebrating our writing !
6. Can Sound Teaching and High Stakes Co-Exist?

### **Philosophy Behind This Program**

- Teachers of writing need to write.
- Teachers are the best teachers of teachers
- Meta-processing helps us understand why something happened the way it happened.
- Modeling and practice of actual skills and processes helps teachers be able to replicate these in their classroom settings.
- Informed teachers can confidently teach writing within the framework of the Writing Workshop because they have participated in the process themselves.
- The principles learned in the Writing Workshop can have application in other learning/writing situations such as PSSA testing.

### **Expectations**

In order for teacher writers to gain the full effect and the most benefit from the series it will be important for each teacher

- to **reflect on** and discuss the application of the pedagogy presented at the end of each session,
- to attend to **personal writing** between sessions and to **contribute to an anthology**
- to **read** assigned materials in preparation for the next session.