


# THE SCIENCE OF WRITING: Implementing Effective K-12 Writing Practices




Join area educators and industry experts from Smekens Education for this exclusive, in-person event designed to empower K-12 school leaders with the knowledge needed to strengthen writing instruction and achievement. This engaging session for instructional leaders will explore how to leverage the Science of Writing to implement cohesive, research-based writing practices that will prepare students for success in school and beyond.



**Didi Harris**  
Smekens Education  
Literacy Consultant

**During this dynamic three-hour session led by Smekens literacy consultant Didi Harris, attendees will:**

- Discover how Dr. Hollis Scarborough’s Reading Rope (reading comprehension & word recognition) and Joan Sedita’s Writing Rope (composition & transcription) form a unified, science-backed approach to literacy.
- Explore the top five research-driven recommendations for establishing effective classroom practices in writing.
- Capture the vision for school-wide writing practices that focuses on essential standards-aligned writing skills, prioritizes time for instruction and practice, and provides effective feedback.
- Understand the multifaceted nature of teaching writing, including balancing foundational language skills, the expression of ideas, and ultimately writing about texts.
- Understand how to teach writing skills explicitly and systematically, using the gradual release of responsibility and a clear scope and sequence to foster consistent student growth.
- Learn practical strategies for teaching writing craft and composition with the research-based Six Traits framework, helping students to communicate their ideas with depth and clarity.
- Uncover time-saving strategies to integrate reading and writing instruction, reducing cognitive load and maximizing classroom efficiency.
- Learn how to build an effective writing program while remaining committed to other adopted literacy practices and programs.



This event will help instructional leaders gain evidence-based methods for building better writers at every level. Participants will leave energized and equipped to lead their teachers toward creating a cohesive, systematic writing practices that produce real results.



### **SPECIFIC TAKEAWAYS:**

- Complete a self-assessment to evaluate your school or district's current writing instructional practices.
- Receive a checklist of evidence-based actions needed to build a stronger, more cohesive writing program.
- Develop a personalized list of actionable next steps to guide implementation and drive results.

A portion of this workshop is dedicated to highlighting how Smekens Education can support schools in implementing the science of writing through their respective services and solutions. The majority of the session will focus on non-commercial content, providing practical strategies and insights that educators can apply immediately.

**9:00 a.m. — Noon**

### **DATES & LOCATIONS**

**April 30 — Normal**

ISU Alumni Center  
1101 N. Main Street  
Normal, IL 61761

**May 1 — Oak Lawn**

District 218 Administrative Center  
10701 S. Kilpatrick Ave  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

**May 7 — Collinsville**

Gateway Center (Metro East)  
1 Gateway Drive  
Collinsville, IL 62234

### **WHO SHOULD ATTEND:**

K-12 school and district leaders, including superintendents, assistant superintendents, curriculum directors, curriculum coordinators, principals, assistant principals, instructional coaches, and teacher leaders

### **REGISTER HERE:**

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