



Simons Middle School



23.0 – Writing

Writing Goals:

1. To provide opportunities for students to develop complex communication skills.
2. To ensure a variety of skills are embedded within writing instruction, across contents, and the inclusion of print and non-print resources.
3. To allow the use of a variety of technological tools to instruct, create and revise communication processes.
4. To implement these skills through the completion of Bridge Performance Indicators.

Administrative Responsibilities:

- Provide time and resources for writing instruction to occur in all contents.
- Ensure all teachers are adequately trained in best practice writing instruction methods.
- Ensure all teachers are familiar with the Kentucky Writing Rubric used for On-Demand, Short Answer and Constructed Response assessments.
- Oversee the creation and collection of digital writing portfolios.
- Provide professional development and resources to support and improve writing instruction within the school, as needed.

Teacher Responsibilities:

- Include writing and communication opportunities throughout the year for students. These opportunities can include, but not limited to:
 - Arguments focused on discipline-specific content, creation of a claim, and addressing counterclaims or opposing viewpoints in their argument.
 - Informative/Explanatory (narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes)
 - Research projects to answer a question, using multiple print and digital sources. (can include research for Passion Project)
 - Routine writing for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes and audiences. (short answer, constructed response, collaborative discussions, etc.)
- Guide students in the development of authentic pieces for inclusion in the digital writing portfolio:
 - 7th Grade -
 - Evidence of writing from each Core Content class (English, Social Studies, Science and Math)
 - 1 Research Project Writing
 - 1 Argumentative Writing
 - 1 Narrative Writing
 - 8th Grade -
 - Evidence of writing from each Core Content class (English, Social Studies, Science and Math)
 - Evidence of On-Demand Practice
 - 1 Research Project Writing
 - 1 each of the 3 modes (Informative/Argumentative/Narrative)
- Provide students with constructive feedback on drafts of writings to guide them in the completion of their writing portfolio.



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Writing Cont.

- Engage students in writing practice regularly in class, and provide multiple outlets for communication.
- Encourage deeper understanding through research, and inquiry based prompts.
- ELA Teachers - Provide direct writing instruction through PLCS Curriculum topics for all students.
- ELA Teachers - Provide resources/training for teachers in other contents to support writing instruction across all content areas.
- ELA Teachers - Provide RTI instruction for students who score below proficiency for On-Demand Benchmarks.
- ELA Teachers - Provide On-Demand assessment data to Content Teams to identify RTI students.
- ELA Teachers - Collaborate monthly with Content Teams to assist in inclusion of writing instruction, as needed.

Student Responsibilities:

- Apply the criteria of the Kentucky Scoring Rubric for On-Demand, Short Answer, and Constructed Response to their writings.
- Ensure that work is their own, and not plagiarized.
- Engage in self-assessment, reflection, and peer conferencing for writing revisions.
- Utilize 21st Century technologies to support communication and writing skills, including making local, state, and global connections, as well as digital collaborations.
- Include communication in evidence of Bridge Performance Indicator completion.
- Collect and revise documents for inclusion in the digital writing portfolio.

POLICY EVALUATION

We will evaluate the effectiveness of this policy through our school Improvement Planning Process.

First Reading: October 28th, 2019

Second Reading: December 16, 2019

Date Adopted: December 16, 2019

Date Reviewed or Revised: _____

Date Reviewed or Revised: _____

Signature: 

Council Chairperson's Initials: _____

Council Chairperson's Initials: _____