



# Workshop Presentation Menu

Trail of Breadcrumbs professional development workshops explore ways to get kids writing. Every training will include the foundational process streamlined by Gretchen Bernabei of choosing topics and text structures to write kernel essays. Implementing these strategies in the classroom results in building a class of reflective, confident writers who are eager to share their writing and apply learned strategies across all disciplines.

Based on the beliefs of the National Writing Project and research about how children learn, Gretchen Bernabei's materials have proven useful, surprisingly painless, and measurably effective for all students. This is not a prescriptive, canned program, but in-depth training opportunities with room for teachers and students to make their own sound choices.

## ***CRUNCHTIME***

*Building the Writing Process in the Classroom*

Textbook: *Crunchtime* by Gretchen Bernabei, Jayne Hover, and Cynthia Candler

Teachers often think that with most students, the biggest challenges start at the beginning – how to start and how to organize a written piece. During this session, teachers will learn to jump-start the writing process and keep the enthusiasm going all year.

- Text Structures and Kernel Essays
- Ba-da-bings
- Sparkling Sentences
- Truisms
- Revision Stations

## ***THE STORY OF MY THINKING***

*Expository Writing Activities for 13 Teaching Situations*

Textbook: *The Story of My Thinking* by Gretchen Bernabei and Dottie Hall

This session offers multiple entry points for teachers to lead students into producing well-crafted expository pieces.

- Text Structures and Kernel Essays
- Indelible moments
- Elastic kernel
- 11-Minute Essay/HANNAH/Heart Map
- Info-shots and Cubing
- Remediation Packets

## ***FUN-SIZE ACADEMIC WRITING FOR SERIOUS LEARNING***

*101 Lessons & Mentor Texts--Narrative, Opinion/Argument, & Informative/Explanatory*  
Textbook: *Fun-Size Academic Writing* by Gretchen Bernabei and Judi Reimer

Sometimes a student's best teacher is another student. Using student mentor texts, students try out author's craft in their own writing. Deepening understanding, they will also learn to read as writers and write for readers.

- Text Structures and Kernel Essays
- Building a Writer's Toolbox with Icons
- Color-it-up
- Pitchforking
- Responding to Literature
- Fun-Size Alignment Documents

## ***GRAMMAR KEEPERS***

*Lessons That Tackle Students' Most Persistent Problems Once and for All*

Textbook: *Grammar Keepers* by Gretchen Bernabei

In this session, teachers will discover that mastery of grammar concepts develops naturally when students use their own journal writing as a launching point. Students will learn grammar, spelling, and usage skills easily by practicing and proving them daily without ever using a worksheet.

- Using Star Points and Tracking Charts
  1. How and why to use journals
  2. Their/there/they're and other confused words
  3. Apostrophes and other tricky punctuation
- The Dialogue of Grammar Choice
- Pitchforking Grammar
- Sentence Wringer
- Paragraph Overhaul
- AAWWUBBIS
- Grammar Alignment Documents

## *TEXT STRUCTURES from the MASTERS*

*50 Lessons and Nonfiction Mentor Texts to Help Students WRITE THEIR WAY IN and READ THEIR WAY OUT OF EVERY IMAGINABLE GENRE*

Textbook: *Text Structures from the Masters* by Gretchen Bernabei and Jennifer Koppe

Using powerful historical documents as a springboard for reading and writing instruction, this session reaches students in social studies and history classrooms as well as those in ELAR instruction.

- Write your own: "Picking up the Pieces"
- Connection: Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Pearl Harbor Address to the Nation
- Itches and Scratches: Busting myths about academic writing
- Write about a character: "A Bad Situation a Lot of Us are In"
- Connection: Lester Hunter's song
- Write refusals: "No, Thank You"
- Connection: Letter to William and Mary College, the Indians of the Six Nations
- Write persuasively: "Problem-Solution Message"
- Connection: The Declaration of Independence
- Ways to use this book across content areas

## *TEXT STRUCTURES FROM NURSERY RHYMES*

*Reading and Writing with Rhythm and Rhyme*

Textbook: *Text Structures from Nursery Rhymes* by Gretchen Bernabei, Jayne Hover, and Kayla Shook

Presenting ground-breaking strategies for early learners in grades Prekindergarten-3rd, this book will use nursery rhymes to introduce structure and organization to the youngest of writers. Get real composing into the primary classroom!

- Sample Writing demonstration: "I'm a Little Teapot" and the writing process
- Academic research/pedagogy behind the practices
- Sample Reading demonstration: "I Had a Little Pony," modeling the reading process and what you notice
- Grammar and spelling connections
- Making quick lists
- Shopping for a text structure
- Writing and sharing a kernel essay
- Reflecting on the literary uses of nursery rhymes

## ***TRAIL of BREADCRUMBS IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT DAY***

No Textbook. Schools will need to provide STAAR samples from their campus for analysis.

This session is designed for schools that have been using Trail of Breadcrumbs materials and are ready for a day of targeted analysis of their students' work and progress.

- Refresher on kernel essays
- Extending text structures students are already using
- Introducing a Reader Rubric using STAAR essays from school with emphasis on building on student strengths
- Training teachers to score student writing like a STAAR reader
- Designing a list of concrete student lessons to fill in the gaps
- Model-teaching any two lessons from this list

## ***TRAIL of BREADCRUMBS Year-Long IMPLEMENTATION PLAN***

Textbooks will be based on workshops chosen by district/school.

This plan will provide a comprehensive writing program of training, feedback, implementation, and support throughout the year. The sessions will be designed by working together with the Trail of Breadcrumbs consultant and based on the needs and desired outcomes of individual districts and schools.

- **BEFORE SCHOOL YEAR** One six-hour staff development day (half-day expository writing and half-day grammar training) or two full days of staff development (dividing participants by grade levels) with a Trail of Breadcrumbs consultant during the in-service days before school begins.
- **MID-FALL FEEDBACK AND IMPLEMENTATION** One or two days with the same consultant coming to district/schools, modeling lessons in classrooms for teachers, and conferencing with them about strengths and needs of implementation.
- **END OF SEMESTER REVIEW** One staff development day early in December with the consultant returning; half-day meeting with all trained teachers and staff from the fall workshop(s) in morning for implementation/trouble-shooting/alignment, and half-day reporting to administrators in the afternoon about the success of the program.

A second semester plan will then be built based on the semester review. Different sessions could be introduced building on the strengths of the program. For example, the workshop and book *Text Structures from the Masters* would provide an opportunity to bring in social studies and history teachers alongside trained ELAR staff for interdisciplinary writing strategies and district alignment, while the Nursery Rhymes book could be selected to introduce the foundational writing process to early learners in Pre-Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> grade.