

Writing in a Digital Age

One could make the argument that kids are writing more words per day than at any time in recorded history, given the popularity of texting and social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter. In addition, the Core Writing strand makes it clear that digital writing activities must be incorporated into typical lessons. Are English/language arts teachers taking advantage of this trend, or are they ignoring or even denigrating it? This session will demonstrate many activities that can be done to maximize the opportunities that currently exist for talking about language, audience, and what “publication” means in the blogosphere. Drawing upon his work with teachers across the country, Dr. Kist can facilitate your transition to the Common Core Writing principles such as: increasing writing to sources, marshaling arguments using evidence, and focusing on shorter research projects that start as early as Kindergarten. Text-dependent writing prompts will be demonstrated that require students to rely primarily on the text to support their arguments and responses. In addition, Dr. Kist will bring his expertise in new literacies to show how simple multi-modal elements may be inserted into writing assignments, as students take notes, answer questions and keep digital learning logs throughout the school day. Teachers will leave this session with many examples of writing assignments and assessments that will help to prepare students for the kinds of writing they will be doing in college and beyond. Sample documents will tie these writing activities not only to the Common Core, but the Partnership for 21st Century Skills and the ACT College Readiness Standards.