

NEW TEACHER TRAINING

WriteToLearn
Fall 2012

Get to know The Voice



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Using Live Meeting



- *6 to Mute and #6 to Un-Mute
- Q&A Chat Box
- Handouts
- Recording

Where are we headed?



- Background
- State Requirements
- Demo
- Troubleshooting
- Ideas for the Classroom
- Additional Resources
- Q&A

Background



- State law requires that 5th, 7th, and 10th graders are tested on their writing skills
- SD DOE administers writing assessment through WriteToLearn program
- Participation only

State Requirements



- All students in grades 5, 7, & 10
- Students must submit two separate essay submissions
- Anytime between September 4, 2012 and April 30, 2013

Alternate Students

- Students who participate in the DSTEP-A are exempt from using the WriteToLearn program

- Alternate writing assessment will follow similar guidelines
 - ▣ Two submissions

 - ▣ More info can be found at <http://doe.sd.gov/oats/AltAssessment.asp>.

- Students who participate in the DSTEP-A may meet the writing assessment requirement by using the WriteToLearn program if it is appropriate for their learning needs

WriteToLearn Demo



- Sue Ann Towle
 - WriteToLearn Product Manager

- Student & Teacher Interfaces

How do I access my account?



- Contact district testing coordinator
 - Username/Password
 - URL to teacher and student interface

How do my students access their accounts?



- Student URL

- Student Username
 - ▣ 9-digit SIMS number

- Student Password
 - ▣ First four characters of last name plus four-digit birth month and day (Ex: smit0314)

Flexibility in the Classroom



- Any essay prompt can be used
- Students can copy/paste into the program
- Adjust scoring and passing thresholds
- Any classroom
- Essay prompts must be used for compliance purposes
 - ▣ Free to use summary activities in addition to essays

Flexibility with Accommodations



- Follow student's IEP
- No accommodations will invalidate the assessment

Troubleshooting



- Students cannot log-in
 - Double check username/password & URL
 - Clear browsing history on computer

- Student did not receive a score
 - Attempt will still count for state participation
 - Score by hand to provide student with feedback

- You disagree with the program scoring
 - Use sticky note feature to leave comments

- The student's score went down after he or she edited his or her paper.
 - Students can retrieve previous versions of their essays

What are Other Teachers Doing?

- Students complete initial drafts in WriteToLearn and turn final copy in for the teacher to grade
- Students use the text to speech function to have their own writing read back to them
- ELA teachers collaborate with other content areas to use summary writing activities so writing instruction is consistent across the building
- Hide some traits on the scoreboard so students focus on those they need the most work on
- Create ability grouped assignments
- Assign a summary activity as homework to prepare students for the next days lecture

Off-Grade Licenses



- \$10 per student

- Annual license

- Contact Pearson directly
 - ▣ Carrie Austin
Pearson Account Representative
Phone: 1-888-977-7900 ext. 6051
Email: carrie.austin@pearson.com

Additional Resources



- Facebook

- <http://www.facebook.com/WriteToLearn>

- We Are Teachers

- <http://www.weareteachers.com/>

- WriteToLearn List Serve

- <http://k12.sd.us/Listserv/WriteToLearn.htm>

Additional Trainings



- Optional Q&A Webinar
 - ▣ Available Upon Request
 - To Be Determined

- Optional, online, refresher sessions
 - ▣ November 7 & 8 (if necessary)
 - To Be Determined

 - ▣ January 23 (if necessary)
 - 4-5pm CT

Final Reminders



- WriteToLearn is an instructional tool
- Almost all students should already be in the system
- No limit to the number of teacher accounts in a district
- Great flexibility in how the program is used in your classroom

Questions?



- Please contact Matt Gill
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