

# Bring Mary To Your School



## Author of:

- *You Say; I Say*  
100 "game" questions for partners that serve as material for motivational Quick Writes in all modes.
- *Success Series One Folders (Grades 6-12)*  
40 folders for class, groups, partners, or individual assignments covering all language arts skills using various forms of media as an impetus
- *Success Series Two Folders*  
36 folders for grades 6-12 that use student art to prompt writing. Single and multi-paragraph teacher-written essays and analysis questions can be used as Quick Writes or "Challenges."
- *The Writing Teacher's Activity-a-Day*  
180+ Prompts & Quick Writes for 6-12  
5-minute lessons
- *Ready-to-Use English Workshop Activities*  
180 Daily student-written passages with questions integrating writing, grammar, and literature skills (Perfect activities while teacher conferences)
- *Something for Every Day*  
180 teacher-written excerpts in all modes followed by integrated skills questions and six comprehensive tests
- *Writing Portfolio Activities Kit*  
Includes student-and teacher-written passages to serve as models along with sections on grammar, literature, and vocabulary
- *All about Me*  
A personalized, integrated approach to writing, grammar, and reading for elementary or struggling students
- *Conference Activities*  
Application, literature, and grammar cards to serve as partner or individual "test" questions after reading - Packet comes with *Nuts & Bolts*: Activities that motivate and assure success for students
- *Writing On Demand Grades 3-6*  
Provides student and teacher models with analysis questions regarding structure, elaboration, voice, and grammar--all strategies necessary for students to become more independent writers for benchmarks, state tests, and classroom essays.
- *Writing On Demand Grades 6-12*  
Gives students the tools to become successful, confident writers on any essay tests--from state-mandated to classroom literary analysis, including expository, persuasive / argumentative, and narrative exemplary models.

Visit our website for a complete list of books & resources

## Mary Ellen Ledbetter Seminars:

### Formative Assessment

My seminar takes teachers step-by-step through various approaches of focusing on attainable goals for a class period. Certainly peer feedback is a necessary step in the writing process as a whole, but even peer responses should be given a "purpose." It is enough for students to thoroughly analyze one or two aspects of classmates' papers, much less assigning them the task of proofreading / editing for all "errors." The most important part of formative assessment is that it allows teachers to give more frequent feedback not only to writers who read aloud but to the entire class as well, thus allowing all students the opportunity to revise.

### Essential Strategies in Achieving Exemplary Writing (6-12)

Mary addresses the issues students face when attempting to achieve exemplary writing scores. One of the most prevalent problems is that students look at the "overall" picture—the end result—and either give up or put forth minimum effort, both of which confirm their fears that essay writing is an impossible goal. However, Mary presents specific strategies to "break down" the process into manageable parts that are assessed in their formative stages. Students begin to see results when they are given the opportunity to revise at "pausing points" to ensure that all the necessary components of superior essays are inherent in their papers.

### Achieving Higher Writing Scores on States' Writing Tests (6-12)

Whether your school has implemented CCS, PARCC, Smarter Balance, or the district-wide goals of your own curriculum, Mary can help build a strong, vertically aligned English / LA program that will result not only in higher test scores but in an in-depth knowledge of the writing process as well as the practice of "active," close reading that will create lifelong learners. Mary's researched-based, classroom-tested strategies are designed to be differentiated to work with all grade and ability levels and generic enough to be used with any curriculum at any point.

### Writing on Demand 3-6

On many occasions students must write without the intervention of their teachers. When faced with benchmarks, district- or state-mandated assessments, or even in-class essay exams, often students lack the confidence to tackle prompts on their own, resulting not only in the writer's frustration but in low test scores as well. However, when students are armed with easy-to-implement, motivating activities that allow them to practice every stage of the process, they become more confident, independent writers, ones who are prepared to reach their goals.

### State-Mandated Test Preparation Seminars

*Mary Ledbetter specializes in teaching seminars for State-Mandated Tests.*

- Presents Seminars for STAAR Test including Extensive Materials
- YOUR STATE TEST STANDARDS Seminar and Extensive Materials
- Works individually with students in classrooms
- Assesses progress and provides follow-up training
- Instructs teachers in a step-by-step approach that will strengthen problem areas
- Demonstrates dozens of activities designed to motivate students to produce their best work

### STAAR Testing Seminars for Teachers and Classroom Demonstrations

Seminars for both elementary & secondary teachers on STAAR Writing & Reading & includes extensive examples of expository, persuasive/argumentative, literary analysis & short-answer responses, along with revision & editing questions.

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## Bring Mary To Your School To Work With Teachers / Students



**In-class skills demonstration for students**



**For Information on Booking Seminars and Ordering Materials, call or e-mail:**

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**E-mail: [ellenledbetter@aol.com](mailto:ellenledbetter@aol.com)**

**[www.maryledbetter.com](http://www.maryledbetter.com)**

### Participants' Comments:

I truly enjoyed this seminar. I've been teaching for ten years, and the work load has severely increased to an overwhelming amount. The papers and grading have been impacting my parenting and family time, so these strategies will be such a lifesaver. (Lindsey, H. ELA, NY)

This is one of the best seminars I have attended in nearly twenty years of teaching. Ms. Ledbetter is an intelligent, engaging instructor. Normally I am happy to be done with a seminar, but today I was sorry to see it end. The strategies and resources presented today are extremely relevant and user-friendly. I look forward to teaching some of the "tricks." I think my students will love them. (Jennifer J., ELA teacher, NY)

I really enjoyed the seminar. Mary's understanding of the writing process, students, and life really contributes to my belief in the effectiveness of the strategies. I can't wait to get back to my classroom and start working on the strategies for voice. I also appreciated the student rubrics and will use those to augment my current rubrics. Mary's sense of passion for "writing *with* students as a shared process" really reaffirms my own drive as a teacher. (Carl S, English teacher, CO)

I really loved the passionate, straight-forward approach. Outstanding presentation! Very good sense of humor. It was lunchtime before I knew it! I learned many valuable lessons that I can share with my department. (Steve J., English teacher, WA)

Mary is an outstanding presenter. She gets to the point and uses great humor to keep you interested. Her unique style kept me wanting more! Very knowledgeable on how to prepare your students to become better writers. (Curtis E., English teacher, WA)

Lots of great info and strategies for LA and SS. Mary Ellen, you're a great teacher. Fast, fun, and energetic. (Barbara L., LA coordinator, Honolulu)

Practical ideas, supported by Mary Ellen who actually has done it. Not theory. (Glenn Y., ELA High School teacher, Hawaii)

Mary Ellen kept our rapt attention the entire time with usable examples. She has a terrific sense of humor and keeps it lively. (Bonnie V., ELA 10, 11 CP teacher, CA)

### What Onsite Administrators Are Saying:

Mary's modeling for teachers and students in the classroom have resulted in 92% passing in 7th grade writing (from 70%) and 90% (from 47 & 42) in 10th and 11th. Our teachers are ecstatic to finally find something that works year after year. (Dr. Janet Coleman, Castleberry ISD, Fort Worth, TX)

Each time Mary Ledbetter visits our district, both the teachers and students have felt the writing programs have been positively impacted. Her enthusiasm, knowledge, and teaching style give her presentations a dynamic impact which has made a difference in our students' achievement.

- 8th grade increase 12.9% to 14.9%
- Senior's increase 88.7% to 91.5% (Colleen Scrimenti, District ILA Supervisor)

Mary Ellen Ledbetter has worked with all levels K-12 at our district. Writing scores have improved, teachers have ready-to-use writing samples at all levels, and students and teachers alike have at their disposal new strategies not only for all facets of language arts but for lifelong learning as well. What a treasure!

(Lucy Soovajjian, Supervisor of Academic Programs Language Arts, the Union City School District, NJ)

Spring Survey Results - LA Teachers trained by M.E.L.:

- 100% of the teaching staff views the Ledbetter strategies as the most effective way to teach writing.
  - 100% of the teaching staff claims that the strategies have directly increased students' classroom grades and increased in-house ...rubric scores.
  - 100% of the teaching staff agrees that the strategies can be used throughout the grade levels.
- (Donna Kortvelesy, M.S., N.B.C.T., Professional Development Specialist, AVID District Director)