

Janine A. King - TARA February 2011 Sessions

Session One:

Motivating Middle School Writers

Are your middle school students having difficulty finding topics for writing? Do they groan when you announce it's time for writers workshop? This hands-on session will focus on strategies to get students writing about the topic they love most, themselves! Participants will try out generating and developing strategies while creating model text to use back in the classroom next week. Writing craft lessons, including inner thinking and dialogue, will also be presented, as well as structures and practices to keep a smooth writers workshop up and running smoothly in a middle school classroom. Please bring your own writers notebook and favorite pen. If you don't have one, this is a great time to start one!

Session Two:

Beyond the Five Paragraph Essay

This session will focus on teaching a flexible approach to writing essays, a foundational skill for middle school writers. A demonstration on how writers can grow ideas for essay topics using personal issues and ideas from their writers notebooks will be included. Lessons on embedding the structures and skills common to all expository writing will also be shared, along with next steps for using basic essay structure to branch out into persuasive essay, literary essay, and research report writing.