



## CREATING A BRIDGE BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE WRITING


### What Is *College-Ready Writing Essentials*?

- *College-Ready Writing Essentials™* is an online, flexible classroom resource aimed at creating a bridge between high school and college writing.
- Most high school students go on to college, whether they've taken a college prep track or not. However, research shows that nationwide less than 30 percent of high school graduates are ready for the demands of college-level writing.
- Writing is the academic skill **most linked to college success**. Therefore, it's vital that we prepare all college-bound high schoolers and entering college students for college writing success.
- *College-Ready Writing Essentials* leads students step-by-step through the process of composing a research-supported academic essay, the kind of writing they're asked to produce most often early in their college coursework.
- Research suggests that entering college students, regardless of their field of study, are more likely to succeed when they:
  - have experience with authentic, extended composition;
  - understand the behavioral and performance expectations of college academics;
  - have developed metacognitive awareness of themselves as learners and of the culture and institutions around them.
- *College-Ready Writing Essentials* guides students in all three of these domains, reflecting the best of what we know about college-ready writing practices, principles, and theory.

## CREATING A BRIDGE BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE WRITING

- As a five-week module specifically targeting college readiness, *College-Ready Writing Essentials* is designed to slot easily into existing courses and programs, wherever students are asked to produce an extended, authentic academic essay.
- *College-Ready Writing Essentials* is right for both high school and early college courses, as well as dual credit, extended learning, and other programs targeting the transition to post-secondary learning.
- Developed with the challenges of teaching composition in mind, *College-Ready Writing Essentials* is easy to implement in both conventional and online classrooms.
- *College-Ready Writing Essentials* is hosted on Canvas, one of the most-used web-based learning management systems in higher education. The Canvas environment makes *College-Ready Writing Essentials* easy to access and use for students, teachers, and schools. It provides students with experience working in the kind of course environments they will encounter in college.





Account

Admin

Dashboard

Courses

Calendar

Inbox

Commons

Help

←


Home


Modules


Assignments


Pages


Files


Announcements 


Discussions 


Grades 


People 

Outcomes 

Quizzes 

Conferences 

Collaborations 

Syllabus 

Rubrics

Google Drive

Office 365

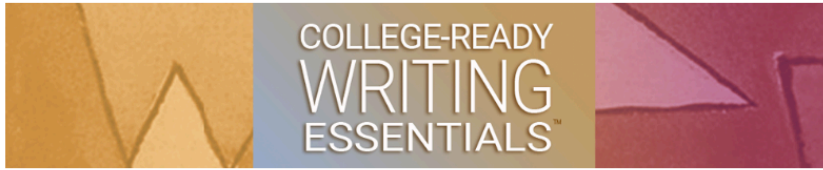
Search

Settings

### College-Ready Writing Essentials

---

CRWE | Table of Contents



*Creating a Bridge between High School and College Writing*

**OVERVIEW**

- Lesson 1: [Overview](#)

**PLANNING**

- Lesson 2: [Task, Audience, Purpose](#)
- Lesson 3: [Selecting a Topic](#)
- Lesson 4: [Researching a Topic](#)
- Lesson 5: [Reading Perceptively](#)
- Lesson 6: [Defining an Issue](#)
- Lesson 7: [Connecting a Specific Issue to a General Concern](#)
- Lesson 8: [Mapping Perspectives](#)










[better-rhetor.com](http://better-rhetor.com)

[collegereadywriting.com](http://collegereadywriting.com)

[william-bryant.com](http://william-bryant.com)

Visit our [FREE DEMO](#) on Canvas

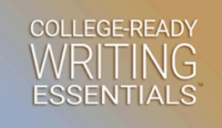
## CREATING A BRIDGE BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE WRITING

Pages  
 Files  
 Announcements  
 Discussions  
 Grades  
 People  
 Outcomes  
 Quizzes  
 Conferences  
 Collaborations  
 Syllabus  
 Rubrics  
 Google Drive  
 Office 365  
 Search  
 Settings

### Lesson 2: Task, Audience, Purpose

CRWE | Lesson 2: Task, Audience, Purpose (PLANNING)



Whether you're building a house or an app, designing a costume, recording a band, starting an organization, hosting an event—if you're going to do it well (and why else would you even attempt it, if not to do it well?) there are a lot of things you need to figure out as you get started. Building or making anything that's complex, creative, and of high quality requires a substantial amount of up-front design work and planning.

- Who is going to buy, experience, wear, use, participate in, or judge this thing you're building? And how do you design it to suit the needs and expectations?
- How much time and money will it require? How do you budget for that?
- Who do you need to line up to help you out? How do you get them to sign on? How do you accommodate their schedules? How do you keep them motivated?
- What kind of materials do you need, and where are you going to get them?

- *College-Ready Writing Essentials* is designed on deeply researched, evidence-centered principles, so that schools and instructors might have a high degree of confidence that their students are acquiring the competencies they will need most for college writing success.
- The thing is, we actually DO know what goes into making a college-ready writer—several frameworks already exist spelling out exactly what researchers have identified as the knowledge, skills, and abilities most important to master pre-college. It's just that no one has ever put it all together for students and teachers in an easy-to-use way. Until now!

**Read our whitepaper:**  
***College-Ready Writing Essentials Whitepaper***

## CREATING A BRIDGE BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE WRITING

- *College-Ready Writing Essentials* was developed by BetterRhetor's William Bryant, PhD. Dr. Bryant spent ten years in test development at ACT Inc., lastly as Director of Writing Assessments. Over the course of his 30-year career as a writer, editor, and educator, he has worked extensively with student writing and gained a deep understanding of the college-ready writing gap and its causes.

COLLEGE-READY WRITING GAP		
High School	<div>College-Ready Writing Essentials™</div> <div>➔</div> <div>Creating A Bridge</div>	College
Primarily short responses and worksheets; "writing without composing."		Multiple-page source-based compositions: reports, essays, position papers, critical reviews, etc.
Formulaic structures, such as the 5-paragraph essay and 11-sentence paragraph.		Structure determined by student author according to the needs of their project. Formulas are avoided.
Students write to standardized topics and prompts.		Students discover topics and explore issues that they care about.
Students' cultural identity, background, and experience are off-limits in academic writing.		Students' identity, background, experience are important resources that they bring to their academic writing.
Evidence-supported persuasive essays are not emphasized.		Evidence-supported persuasive essays are the primary type of writing required.
The primary purpose of writing is to demonstrate language skills.		The primary purpose of writing is to demonstrate critical thinking skills.
©2020 BetterRhetor Resources LLC		

### Questions/Contact:

[collegereadywriting@better-rhetor.com](mailto:collegereadywriting@better-rhetor.com)

### Schedule a quick meeting to learn more:

<https://meetings.hubspot.com/rebecca-bryant>

## CREATING A BRIDGE BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE WRITING

### WHAT STUDENTS GET

- **Experience with authentic academic writing.** *College-Ready Writing Essentials* provides the kind of academic composition experience that research says best prepares students for college success:

- Extended, source-based composition
- Disciplined inquiry
- Strategies for discovery and invention
- Experience with research and analysis
- Scoping a project
- Defining an issue
- Taking a position
- Supporting a position with evidence and argumentation
- Understanding the conventions of academic writing
- Giving and getting peer reviews
- Revising and reflecting on their own work
- Crafting an efficient, polished essay they can be proud of

- **Confidence that they can succeed.** *College-Ready Writing Essentials* provides step-by-step guidance in composing a research-supported persuasive academic essay—the kind of writing students are asked most frequently to produce in college. Students can feel confident that they’re learning the skills they need for success. The resource includes:

- Comprehensive instruction
- Student writing examples throughout
- Models and strategies for each phase of composition
- Exercises and activities that scaffold complex tasks
- A detailed competencies framework
- Clear performance expectations



## CREATING A BRIDGE BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE WRITING

*College-Ready Writing Essentials* makes familiar to students the culture of college academics, providing clear and honest guidance on:

- Behaviors and habits of mind necessary for academic success
- What counts as effective, persuasive communication in college academics
- What counts as quality academic writing
- The importance of knowing their own academic interests and strengths, as well as where they need to improve
- Awareness of academic culture and the institutional environment around them

• **Empowerment, in school and beyond.** *College-Ready Writing Essentials* presents effective writing, and the critical thinking and perceptive readings skills that go with it, as a means of empowerment. Students are given to understand strong writing as an ability integral to advancing their own interests and perspectives, in their careers and civic lives as well as the classroom. *College-Ready Writing Essentials* stresses:

- Students' responsibility for their own intellectual engagement
- Responsibility for their own performance
- Responsibility for contributing to their academic community in socially and intellectually constructive ways
- Cultivating agency—their capacity for power and impact in the world
- Leveraging their own background, experience, values, and creative intelligence to make meaningful contributions to conversations and projects that matter personally to them



## CREATING A BRIDGE BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE WRITING

### WHAT TEACHERS GET

- **Freedom and flexibility.**

We designed *College-Ready Writing Essentials* to help ease the workload that comes with teaching composition. While teachers may choose to modify, supplement, and adapt the resource as needed, *College-Ready Writing Essentials* is complete in itself, including all of the instructional language, exercises, evaluation tools, and other resources needed for a self-contained unit of study. The completeness of the resource helps reduce planning time and frees instructors for more interaction with students.

*College-Ready Writing Essentials*'s 25 lessons are directly addressed to students; teachers may thus elect to "flip" their classrooms if they desire, assigning lessons and exercises as homework, while using class time for sustained writing, peer review, discussion, and for reviewing and responding to student work. This model is intended to help relieve the difficulty of conferencing and providing detailed feedback on a large volume of student prose.

The resource is modular, so that it can be slotted easily into existing courses. The primary task and instructional content are designed to be covered in as few as five weeks. That timeframe is flexible, however; teachers and schools may choose to extend the unit as needed, especially if they use the supplemental reading and timed writing materials.

- **Confidence in teaching college-ready composition.**

*College-Ready Writing Essentials* is grounded in the research on college readiness and college-ready writing. It reflects best instructional practices, and aligns with the rigor, theory, and instructional approach found in college settings. We emphasize:

- Writing processes
- Rhetorical knowledge
- Critical thinking
- Knowledge of conventions
- Revision and reflection
- Peer review
- Strategies and modeling

## CREATING A BRIDGE BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE WRITING

- Self-regulation
- Self-evaluation
- Motivation

Concepts important to college readiness are embedded throughout *College-Ready Writing Essentials*. They include:

- **Socialization:** An emphasis on learning the conventions and expectations of the college academic discourse community: language and concepts; behavioral expectations; accepted and rewarded modes of meaning-making and persuasion, and more
- **Agency:** *College-Ready Writing Essentials* presents effective writing, and the critical thinking and perceptive readings skills that go with it, as a means of empowerment. Students are given to understand strong writing as an ability integral to advancing their own interests and perspectives, both in the classroom and beyond
- **Responsibility:** We stress the need for each student to take responsibility for their own education, their own intellectual engagement. We also underscore their responsibilities to others in their learning community, and to the integrity of the wider enterprise of education
- **Substance:** The level of students' effort and the quality of their thinking matter most. Writing is a means of discovering what we think, what we care about, what we know and don't know. Form and surface features matter, but of greater importance is critical thinking and the quality of content and analysis

- **A detailed instructor's guide helps with day-by-day facilitation.**

This guide also includes discussion on teaching college-ready writing, with references to relevant scholarship.

- **At the core of *College-Ready Writing Essentials* is a Competencies Framework**—derived from the research on college-ready writing and adapted to the task of producing a research-supported persuasive essay. The *College-Ready Writing Essentials* Competencies Framework articulates for instructors and students precisely the qualities that students should demonstrate in their work. It thus serves as the basis for assessment. The specificity and structure of the statements afford an easy way to quickly evaluate student work and provide diagnostic feedback that teachers and students can use to improve performance.





## CREATING A BRIDGE BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE WRITING

### WHAT SCHOOLS GET

- **An innovation in instructional materials.**

*College-Ready Writing Essentials* represents a new model for designing and using classroom instructional materials. In contrast to conventional textbooks, *College-Ready Writing Essentials* is:

- Online
- Modular
- Flexible
- Targeted
- Competency-based
- Focused on deep, sustained engagement with a student-driven project

*College-Ready Writing Essentials* integrates writing skills and knowledge with behaviors and metacognitive awareness that research indicates are essential for academic success.

- **Equity.**

As a company, BetterRhetor is dedicated to helping all students who want a college education succeed in their efforts, whatever their background, income, or identity. Our goal is to help more schools graduate more college-ready students. That's why we focus on bridging the college-readiness gap, providing opportunities for college success for all students.

- **A solution for closing the college-readiness gap.**

Three-quarters of students entering college lack the writing skills they need for success. Research indicates two primary causes:

1. Most students do not get enough authentic composition experience prior to college
2. Pre-college writing instruction too often is not aligned with college-level expectations.



## CREATING A BRIDGE BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE WRITING

*College-Ready Writing Essentials* is designed to directly address both of these problems. We took the extensive research on college-ready writing—including frameworks for success, best instructional practices, and composition theory—and translated it into a focused, easy-to-implement resource.

We designed *College-Ready Writing Essentials* on deeply researched, evidence-centered principles, so that schools, teachers, parents, and students can have confidence that students are acquiring the competencies most needed for college-level writing success.

- **Meeting your technical and accessibility needs.**

*College-Ready Writing Essentials* is hosted on Canvas, one of the most widely used learning management systems in higher education. It's ready to meet your rostering, sign-on, and data sharing requirements. This online environment also includes a full complement of accessibility tools to accommodate all learners.

*College-Ready Writing Essentials* can also be easily adapted to other LMSs, according to individual district and school needs.

**Read our whitepaper:**

**[College-Ready Writing Essentials Whitepaper](#)**

**Questions/Contact:**

**[collegereadywriting@better-rhetor.com](mailto:collegereadywriting@better-rhetor.com)**

**Schedule a quick meeting to learn more:**

**<https://meetings.hubspot.com/rebecca-bryant>**



## CREATING A BRIDGE BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE WRITING

### ABOUT BETTER RHETOR

BetterRhetor is dedicated to closing the college-readiness gap by providing more students with effective instruction and authentic assessment. We place special emphasis on college-ready writing, since writing is a foundational skill essential for success across disciplines.

To help bridge the gap between pre-college and college-level writing, we have created *College-Ready Writing Essentials*, a teacher-facilitated, five-week instructional resource for use in high school and early college classrooms and programs.

*College-Ready Writing Essentials* was developed by BetterRhetor Co-Founder and President, William Bryant, PhD. Dr. Bryant has more than thirty years of experience as a writer, editor, and educator. Before launching BetterRhetor, he spent ten years in test development at ACT, Inc., lastly as Director of Writing Assessments. He has worked extensively with student writing, gaining a deep understanding of the college-ready writing gap and its causes.

*College-Ready Writing Essentials* reflects BetterRhetor's commitment to helping all students who want a college education succeed in their efforts, regardless of income or background.

**Dr. Bryant's LinkedIn profile:**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/williambryantbrr/>

**Dr. Bryant's GettingSmart Articles:**

<https://www.gettingsmart.com/author/william/>

**Dr. Bryant's ResearchGate profile:**

<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/William-Bryant-2>