The Consortium
South Office

Teaching Writing in Mid School (Grades 5-9): A Deep Dive into Sentence Structure & Text Structure

PRESENTED BY

Miriam Ramzy, PhD & Michelle Bence, PhD

SERIES SESSIONS

Date	Time
November 25, 2026	9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
January 14, 2027	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
January 28, 2027	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

LOCATION

The Consortium, South Office Learning Suite - 2219 14 Avenue South (located in Our Lady of Assumption School)

FEE

$350.00

QUESTIONS?

Contact Us:
403-381-5580

REGISTER ONLINE

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south.aplc.ca

Learning Opportunity

Teaching Writing in Mid School (grade 5-9): A Deep Dive into Sentence Structure & Text Structure

This series begins with an overview of the Layers of Writing framework, focusing on what middle years students need to effectively express their understanding and communicate ideas with increasing complexity. Building on this foundation, the remainder of the two days will focus deeply on sentence structure and syntax and text structure and the instructional practices that build students' written clarity, organization, and precision. Examples from classroom practice will be woven throughout, and teachers will leave with practical strategies and actionable next steps to strengthen sentence and text construction and elevate the overall quality of student writing.

Day 1, we will explore sentence structure and syntax and how these develop in adolescent writers, with a focus on supporting students to move beyond simple or incomplete sentences to crafting complete sentences that better communicate their depth of knowledge. Teachers will learn how to help students build, expand, and refine sentences in purposeful ways so they can communicate ideas with clarity and control. We also examine the role of vocabulary and academic language in developing more complex ideas and varied sentence forms.

Day 2, we will explore text structure and its essential role in developing strong writers by helping students think clearly, select powerful ideas, and organize them with purpose and precision. Teachers will build shared clarity around text purpose, text structure, and text form, and examine how structure drives student thinking across disciplines. Using clear and accessible text structure skeletons, we will move from basic organization to more sophisticated writing, supporting students in expanding and deepening their ideas through purposeful development. Across both days, teachers will engage in collaborative planning to design writing tasks and tools to directly support their instruction with both sentence and text structure for their students and specific context.

Presenters

Miriam Ramzy, PhD

Miriam Ramzy is a teacher and researcher based in Alberta. She has worked as a classroom teacher in both English and French Immersion settings, a literacy coach and facilitator, a school administrator, and Director of Student Learning. Currently, she works with school boards across Western Canada, supporting teachers, leaders, educational assistants, parents, and students from Jr. K - 12. Her work centers on literacy research and practice, with a deep commitment to supporting partners in education to create effective, responsive, and inclusive spaces where all students thrive. Miriam holds a PhD from the University of Calgary. Her research examined writing instruction, with a particular focus on the transcription process. She continues to contribute to professional learning and educational research with a passion for bridging theory and classroom practice.

Michelle Bence, PhD

Michelle Bence is a dedicated educator with over 20 years of experience in K-12 classrooms and literacy education. She has worked extensively with several school boards across Western Canada as a literacy consultant, leading initiatives in literacy development, professional teacher learning, and the system-wide implementation of evidence-based literacy practices. Michelle recently completed her Ph.D. at the University of Calgary. Her research focuses on dialogic pedagogy and its role in fostering students' complex thinking, literacy identities, and language development in relation to literacy acquisition and engagement with texts.

Registration Notes

Learning is more fun with a friend. Consider inviting one of your colleagues to join you.

Please park and enter on the east side of the building (24th Street). You will see blue doors with The Consortium marked on the window.