

# Paddy Eger

## Educating America

### News on Schools



A Newsletter Supporting k-8

Back to School, 2018

Volume 18:3

This quarter's newsletter is focused on

## Writing Workshops

Writing Workshops provide great opportunities for students to free-write fiction or non-fiction. They also provide a chance to discuss characteristics of various forms of writing, traits, and conventions.

Plan to set aside 60 - 90 minutes each week (include a second session if your schedule allows). Make it a special time by creating classroom charts as well as writing folders and worksheets to help students focus on their writing skills.

Start your year of writing workshops by reading books across various genres with specific strengths you want your students to think about: strong sentences or paragraphs, well-developed characters or non-fiction topics, interesting settings, strong dialogue, active verbs, a clear problem and resolution, believable sensory words, etc. Follow that with a 10 minute mini lesson focused on that topic.

## Writing Download Categories

### Overviews and Checklists:

- [How to Write a Really Cool Fiction Story](#)
- [Student Fiction Writing Checklist](#)
- [How to Write an Interesting Non Fiction Story](#)
- [Student Non Fiction Writing Checklist](#)
- [General Writing Evaluation Form](#)
- [Student Writing Checklist for High School](#)
- [Writing Ideas for the End of the Year](#)

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## Quotes to Ponder

*If you can dream it, you can do it.*

~Walt Disney

*Don't let anyone dull your sparkle..*

~Anonymous



My name is Paddy Eger. I'm a retired teacher, a volunteer trainer, a classroom volunteer, a blogger and a writer across several genre. When I'm not writing YA novels, my focus is on encouraging adults to volunteer in classrooms

One of the greatest pleasures of my week is stepping into classrooms to support teachers and students. I'm one of those retired educators who can't stay away. I enjoy helping students with reading and writing and watching the ah-ha's light up their faces.

As you read through this newsletter I hope you will share your ideas and comments with me through my email [Paddy@PaddyEger.com](mailto:Paddy@PaddyEger.com)

You are invited to share this information with other interested persons. All I ask is that you credit me as your source and include my website address. —Thanks.

**Find me on:**   



and



## Planning

[Favorites List & Favorites List](#) (short version)

[Beginning Story Format](#)

[\(Show Me\) Short, Short Stories](#)

[Writing Ideas](#)

[Student Non Fiction Writing Ideas](#)

[Writing: A 5 Paragraph Plan](#)

[Argument and Persuasive Writing Brainstorming Worksheet](#)

## Characters

[Ways Characters Act](#)

[Characters - Relationships to Main Character](#)

## Other Ideas:

[Writing is Like a 3-Day Loop Hike](#)

[Story Genres](#)

[Instead of](#)

[The Power of Scents](#)

As you introduce various concepts across the year, the reading samples will shift to student work and provide notable examples of the same skills you located during reading books to the class. Yes, this cuts into the student writing time, but mini lessons are a great way to remind students about writing details as they are about to head off to write.

Organizing a writing process can look many different ways. Following is one example that I know works with third graders as well as with grades 4-6 with a few modifications which are \*\*starred.

Writing is a necessary life-long skill. The more we can do to help students 'get it right', the more comfortable they'll become regardless of their future profession. With that in mind, give them a good start by sharing the various steps in the writing process. I have broken them down into eleven steps that include planning, writing, editing, final form, sharing and evaluating. [Continued on page 3...](#)

## I want to hear from you!

Tell me about your adult assistant achievements, successes and challenges.

I welcome your feedback, ideas for future newsletter content and contact information for anyone you would like to receive this free resource.

I'm available for interviews, speaking, training seminars and guest blogging.

Write me at [Paddy@PaddyEger.com](mailto:Paddy@PaddyEger.com) or call 425-420-5161 for more information.

## Resources

Visit my [website](#) as well as my [Pinterest](#) boards for my collection of ideas. Also, visit [Teachers Pay Teachers](#), [Teacher's Notebook](#) and [Pinterest](#) for more ideas than you can imagine. Select specific topics: Story prompts for elementary students, Opinion writing for high school, etc. This will save you hours of time planning interesting ways to engage student writers.

1. Planning – A single sheet of paper: A single sheet of copy paper can be folded onto fourths to create 8 planning squares where rough illustrations show the storyline. Number the squares to show the sequential order of the illustrations. See planning page 2 of this newsletter for other planning forms.
2. First Draft: Use newsprint or other inexpensive paper. Skip lines to allow space for early changes/corrections. As you write, number the writing pages to match the illustrations from your 8-square drawings or other outline writing forms. Asking students to handwrite their first draft is important because it uses a different part of the brain than when students type their ideas.
- 3-5. Edit your writing 3 ways: first by yourself, next with a peer, and lastly with an adult or a writing group. Use an editing form (several are provided on my website) to be certain you cover basic writing criteria.
6. Review your writing. Make changes to strengthen your writing. (Students are not required to make storyline changes others suggest, but they should consider them.)
7. Final Form - Keyboarding: requires entering the edited writing onto a computer. All changes should be made before this point. This step requires attention to all writing conventions and details like paragraph and dialogue indents, spelling and punctuation as well as making certain the story has a beginning, a strong middle and the feeling that the piece has reached an ending.
8. Printing brings the writing to a close. Various computer programs are available to provide a book form. Check with your tech people to discover which format is available to your classroom.
9. Enhancements include illustrating, adding charts, etc. to add interest to the writing. Be cautious about using anything other than colored pencils for your enhancement since many types of pens and markers will bleed through the paper!
10. Share you writing with the class or your writing group. Provide an author's chair if feasible. Asking students to read their writing aloud is an easy way to practice public speaking and also learn what classmates appreciate about what was written. Take 2-3 compliments or questions at the end of each shared writing.
11. Final Evaluation with the teacher can be done in a 5-minute conference. Fill-in your section on the last form before meeting with the teacher and determine your goals before you meet.



### 3 Ways to Use the Writing Workshop Progress Chart

1. Run the chart below as a record sheet to keep track of the class progress through the eleven steps.
2. Copy the [Individual Student Writing Workshop - Progress Chart](#) for each student. It will show each story and how far a student progressed through the eleven steps for each story started.
3. If possible, create a magnetized board as a class chart that displays all the steps in the process. It needs to show all students names (and/or student numbers) as well as the eleven steps from planning through to evaluation.

For each story, ask students to move their personal, small magnet from step-to-step across the chart, indicating where he/she has through the writing process. It's a great visual to keep in front of the students and may reinforce their remembering the necessary steps in producing complete pieces of writing.

## One Way to Look at It (Q&A)

*My day is so full I don't see how I can add any more content. I know writing is important, but 90 minutes a week or more? Really?*

signed *A Teacher on Overload*

Dear Overload,

Writing is a skill we'll use all of our lives. Find that block of time or maybe divide it into two 45 minutes periods a week if need be. Creative writing ideas need to percolate as details are accepted and rejected. Do you best make this important time available.

Good Luck!

### Writing Workshop - Progress Chart (Planning to Publishing and Evaluating)

Name	##	PLAN	WRITE	SELF EDIT	PEER EDIT	ADULT EDIT	REVISE	FINAL FORM	PRINT	ENHANCE	SHARE	EVALUATE

Tap on the chart to download.



### Need Tools for Small Groups?

Tired of kids in small groups needing a sharp pencil? a paper clip? scissors? Want a way to keep them focused and seated?

Each pouch can be fastened into a 3-ring notebook or kept loose in the zip closed pouch. It's easy to grab up and take outside the classroom as well.

Kits are available for \$6.50 USD each and includes tax and shipping within the U.S. Supplies are limited. Receive delivery within 14 business days. Available on [www.paddyeger.com](http://www.paddyeger.com) - [click here](#).

# FINAL NOTES

Teaching and guiding writing with students can be an inspiring time as they share their thoughts and ideas. Give them as much time as possible to develop their skills.

Enjoy the free downloads from my website as well as the multitude of materials available online. We're so lucky to have a plethora of resources at our finger tips that save us time and energy!

~Paddy Eger

## Looking for Ideas to Train Para Educators or Classroom Volunteers?

Training classroom support takes more time than most educators have available.

Book a training session today!!

- \* Sessions are tailor-made to meet your needs.
- \* Presentations are hands-on and interactive.
- \* Training sessions range from 45 minutes to 3 hours.

Want details? Contact me, Paddy Eger, at 425-420-5161 (west coast business hours). Together we'll create a plan that works for you anytime of the year.



## Educating America materials provide quick and easy ideas!

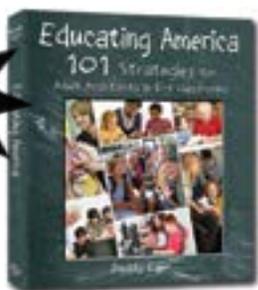
They include the award-winning *Educating America: 101 Strategies for Adults in K-8 Classrooms*, a desktop flipbook and a workbook. Take a look inside each when you visit [www.paddyeger.com](http://www.paddyeger.com) and select the Educating America portion of the website.

The book, flipbook, and workbook are available from your favorite bookstores and online sources for ebooks. At this time, the student reminder cards are available through my website [www.paddyeger.com](http://www.paddyeger.com), at Teacher's Notebook and Teachers Pay Teachers or by contacting me directly at 425-420-5161.

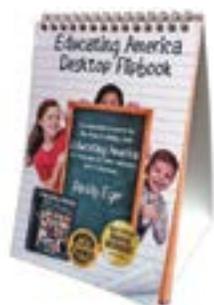
Check out my materials online as seen on [www.TeachersPayTeachers.com](http://www.TeachersPayTeachers.com), [www.TeachersNotebook.com](http://www.TeachersNotebook.com) and [Pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com/paddyeger/). These resources also provide parent ideas as well as information for educators.



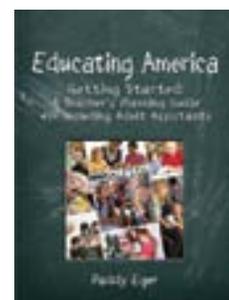
Tap on the covers to check out the sale!



*Educating America*  
101 Strategies  
for Adult Assistants in k-8 Classrooms  
ISBN: 978-0-9831587-5-2



*Educating America*  
Desktop Flipbook  
ISBN: 978-0-9858933-1-6



*Educating America*  
Getting Started  
ISBN: 978-0-9858933-6-1

## Win FREE Materials

1. Write a paragraph-long Review about any of the Educating America materials as listed on Amazon.
2. Include which strategies you plan to incorporate when you are working in a classroom.
3. Post the review.
4. Email a copy of that review to [PaddyEger@aol.com](mailto:PaddyEger@aol.com).
5. I will offer you one of a variety of printed materials to meet your specific needs. Each offering is valued at \$6.50 and includes free shipping.