

## Preface

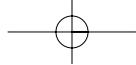
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**T**his book was written to provide both new and existent teachers with a practical guide and application for using the writing process. The focus in *Teaching Writing With Rubrics* is how to use rubrics to guide your students through the writing process. It is not intended to be an instructional book on what the writing process is; there are already many wonderful books available on that topic (see Resource B for a list of references). Therefore I strongly recommend that you read one or more of the books listed in Resource B to gain a better understanding of the writing process before attempting to use this book.

*Teaching Writing With Rubrics* is a compilation of strategies taken from the following sources: Nancie Atwell's book, *In the Middle: Writing, Reading, and Learning With Adolescents* (Boynton/Cook Publishers, 1987); New Zealand's Style of Balanced Literacy observed in an elementary school in Phoenix, Arizona, in 1996 (The Learning Network, [www.rcowen.com](http://www.rcowen.com)); and the concept of "Morning Message." Ideas and suggestions from these sources were taken and put together in a form that is easy to follow and ready to use. What Ellen and I refer to as "our program" is really a combination of all these programs together, adapted to fit our purpose in the classroom.

The chapter titled "Setting Up Your Classroom Writing Program" expands on how we put theory into practice in our classrooms. What we found lacking in our undergraduate schooling, as well as in many of the research-based books, was information on how to get students to actually complete an assignment, as well as how to evaluate it once they did. The rubrics in this book are the result of years of research, planning, and experimenting. We have found a system that works; and with that in mind, we feel a need to share it with others. *Teaching Writing With Rubrics* is designed to provide you with

- Step-by-step instructions on how to set up a classroom writing program that takes students through the writing process
- Information on how to teach students to budget their time for long-term projects
- Instructions on how to use the writing process and programs such as *Six Trait Writing* to build on students' skills and improve their talent for writing

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- An explanation on how to evaluate each part of the process every step of the way
- Reproducibles that are ready to use

We wish you the best of luck in discovering what your students can produce when given a rubric and challenged to do their best. You may be amazed, as we often are, by the hidden talents of many of your students.

LAURA FLYNN

