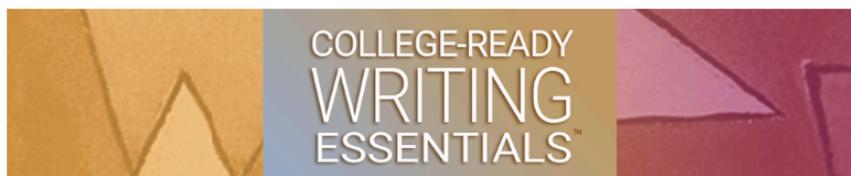


By BetterRhetor

What Is *CRWE*?

- *College-Ready Writing Essentials™* is an online, modular 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, 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 students—both college-prep English and core English—for college writing success.
- *CRWE* provides an innovative way to get more high school students college-ready by introducing them to the kind of academic work, thinking, and expectations they'll encounter early in college.
- A five-week module specifically aimed at college readiness, *CRWE* slots easily into English III and English IV, as well as dedicated college-prep courses such as AP Language and Composition.
- *CRWE* fits into high school English coursework wherever students benefit from targeted, sustained experience with authentic academic writing.
- 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.
- *CRWE* guides students in all three of these domains, reflecting the best of what we know about college-ready writing practices, principles, and theory.
- Designed with the challenges of teaching composition in mind, *CRWE* is easy to implement in both conventional and online classrooms.
- *CRWE* provides a deeper, more focused learning experience than many other instructional resources, while covering over half of the English III and IV TEKS. Standards for vocabulary, self-sustained reading, reading comprehension, reading response skills, writing processes, and inquiry and research are covered throughout *CRWE*, including in supplemental exercises.
- *CRWE* is hosted on Canvas, one of the most-used web-based learning management systems in higher education. The Canvas environment makes *CRWE* 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.

College-Ready Writing Essentials - Texas Edition



A Classroom Resource
for Bridging the Gap Between Pre-College and College-Level Writing

Student Component

Overview

- Lesson 1: [Overview](#)

Planning

- Lesson 2: [Task, Audience, Purpose](#)
- Lesson 3: [Selecting a Topic](#)
- Lesson 4: [Researching a Topic](#)
- Lesson 5: [Reading Perceptively](#)

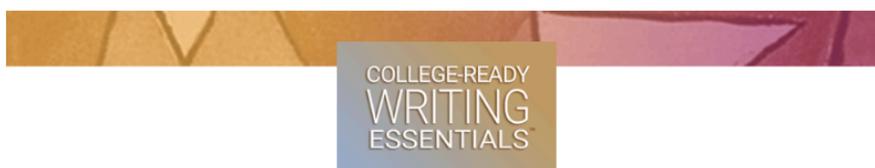
Teacher Component

Instructor's Guide

[P2020 Correlation Eng III](#) 

[P2020 Correlation Eng IV](#) 

Lesson 2: Task, Audience, Purpose



Building or making anything that's complex, creative, and of high quality requires a substantial amount of up-front design work and 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.

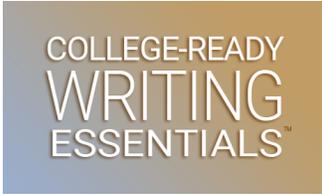
- Who is going to buy, experience, wear, use, participate in, or judge this thing you're building? And how do you design it to suit their needs and expectations?
- How much time and money will it require? How do you budget for that?
- Who do you need to line up to help you out? How do you get them to 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?
- And so on.

Writing an academic paper is no different. It's complex and creative. It takes forethought. To do it well you need to think through some key factors from the start:

- What is the task? That is, what kind of essay am I writing, how extensive does it need to be, and how much time do I have to complete it?
- Who is my audience? Who is going to read and evaluate and respond to this essay? What are their needs and expectations? How do I reach them with my ideas and language?

To access *CRWE-Texas*:
www.collegereadywriting.com/Texas

Questions/Contact:
William Bryant, PhD
wbryant@better-rhetor.com

The logo for College-Ready Writing Essentials is a rectangular box with a gradient from light blue on the left to gold on the right. The text "COLLEGE-READY" is at the top in a small, white, sans-serif font. Below it, "WRITING" is written in a large, white, serif font. At the bottom, "ESSENTIALS" is written in a medium-sized, white, sans-serif font.

COLLEGE-READY
WRITING
ESSENTIALS™

WHAT STUDENTS GET

• ***Experience with authentic academic writing.*** *CRWE* 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.*** *CRWE* 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:

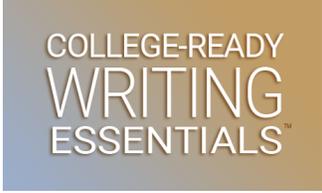
- Comprehensive instruction
- Student writing examples throughout
- Models and strategies for each phase of composition
- Exercises and activities that scaffold complex tasks
- A detailed competencies framework
- Clear performance expectations.

CRWE 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.*** *CRWE* 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. *CRWE* 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.

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COLLEGE-READY
WRITING
ESSENTIALS™

WHAT TEACHERS GET

- ***Freedom and flexibility.***

We designed *CRWE* to help ease the workload that comes with teaching composition. While teachers may choose to modify, supplement, and adapt the resource as needed, *CRWE* 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.

CRWE'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.***

CRWE 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
- Self-regulation
- Self-evaluation
- Motivation

Concepts important to college readiness are embedded throughout *CRWE*. 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*: *CRWE* 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.

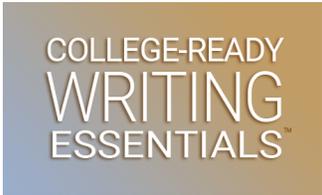
- ***A detailed instructor's guide helps with day-by-day facilitation.***

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

- ***At the core of CRWE 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 *CRWE* 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.

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COLLEGE-READY WRITING ESSENTIALS™

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, *CRWE* is:

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

CRWE integrates writing skills and knowledge with behaviors and metacognitive awareness that research indicates are essential for academic success.

CRWE allows classrooms to cover more than 50% of TEKS in as few as five weeks—rather than locking teachers and students into a year-long experience with a single textbook from a single publisher.

- ***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:

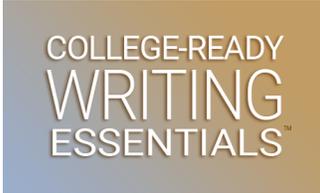
1. Most students do not get enough authentic composition experience prior to college
2. Pre-college writing instruction too often is not aligned with college-level expectations.

CRWE 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 *CRWE* 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.***

CRWE 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.

CRWE can also be easily adapted to other LMSs, according to individual district and school needs.



COLLEGE-READY
WRITING
ESSENTIALS™

ABOUT US

William Bryant, PhD

College-Ready Writing Essentials™ was developed by BetterRhetor Founder and CEO, William Bryant. 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.

CRWE reflects BetterRhetor's commitment to helping all students who want a college education succeed in their efforts, regardless of income or background.

Visit Dr. Bryant's LinkedIn profile at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/williambryantbrr/> for further details.

BetterRhetor

The majority of students entering college are not ready for college-level work. The consequences are severe: not enough high school graduates go to college; too many need remediation once they get there; too few graduate.

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 pre-college and early college classrooms and programs. *CRWE* 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.

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