



# Flip Your Writing Workshop: A Blended Learning Approach

By Dana Johansen, Sonja Cherry-Paul

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How many times during writing workshop have you thought, "If only I could clone myself!" Dana and Sonja have a solution for finding more one-on-one teaching time during your writing workshop: flipped learning. Imagine students having access to instruction and support when they need it as often as they need it. While definitely not a replacement for you, the teacher, flipped learning allows students to:

- access a variety of minilessons on their own
- work at their own pace to study the minilesson
- move ahead or review concepts, depending on individual needs.

Meanwhile, you'll have more time to maximize individual instruction and conferring. Dana and Sonja walk you through the "how's" and "why's" of flipped learning, and provide guidance for determining which minilessons should be "flipped." They'll illustrate what flipped learning in a writing workshop looks like by modeling a flipped lesson, and explaining the technology used. Whether you're a novice or advanced technology user, you'll find tech tips throughout the book that help you choose the right tools and resources for creating flipped lessons and incorporating them into your workshop.

Discover how a blended approach using flipped learning can increase efficiency in your writing workshop, while fostering independent learning and student engagement at the same time.

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*By Dana Johansen, Sonja Cherry-Paul*

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**Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #390349 in Books
- Published on: 2016-04-18
- Released on: 2016-04-18
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.20" h x .23" w x 7.40" l, 10.00 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 112 pages

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Review**

As a middle school writing workshop teacher who has just begun experimenting with the flipped classroom model, this book is a godsend! Dana and Sonja prove that flipped lessons support the writing workshop tenets, and show us how these lessons fit into the routines of our buzzing, magical workshops. They provide you with all of the resources you need to apply this new teaching method, and forever change the way you teach writing.

--Devan Fitzpatrick, Lower School Teacher, Fay School, Southborough, MA

With Flip Your Writing Workshop you will learn how a few carefully crafted flipped mini-lessons can meet your students needs when they need them! Dana and Sonja share a range of tools, from easy-to- use to more complex, as well as a framework that will guide you every step of the way. An added bonus is the invitation to step into Dana and Sonja s writing workshops to see how they created, implemented, evaluated and improved their own flipped writing mini-lessons as well as the student responses that are included for each lesson.

--Fran McVeigh, Literacy Consultant and Adjunct Instructor

Flip Your Writing Workshop is a step-by-step, practical guide to creating a flipped English classroom. Johansen and Cherry-Paul provide tools for teachers new to flipped learning, as well as teachers who are not "tech comfortable." Technology is often the biggest barrier for teachers starting to flip, and this book helps demystify the process. Writing Workshop is a powerful pedagogical tool, and the authors incorporate technology in a clear and imaginative way to make it manageable for any teacher. This book is a great resource for teachers looking to flip their class! --Cheryl Morris

As a teacher who has also struggled to make time for every single writer in my classroom, I was drawn in to Flip Your Writing Workshop by the fact that Dana and Sonja start out with hope and a can-do attitude. They acknowledge both the promise and potential pitfalls of implementing flipped learning, and they offer guidance every step of the way. Flipped learning is about reimagining the most valuable resource we teachers have at our disposal: time.

Meenoo Rami, author of Thrive

In this book, Dana and Sonja offer an insider s look into their flipped writing workshops. By sharing stories from their classrooms, examples from students, videos of flipped writing lessons, step-by-step instructions, and technology tips, they expertly demonstrate how a blended learning approach can easily be put into place in today s busy classroom. If you re searching for a way to maximize your teaching time, differentiate your instruction, and assist more students with writing each day, all while promoting student agency, then look no further than Flip Your Writing Workshop: A Blended Learning Approach.

--Lisa Eickholdt

Flip Your Writing Workshop is a clear, unintimidating, practical guide for real teachers to understand the hows and whys of incorporating flipped learning into each stage of writers workshop as it applies to a real classroom. Johansen and Cherry-Paul take the true challenges of the classroom and offer a practical, step-by-step solution that accounts for varied teaching environments and situations. This is an instructional guide on how to use flipped learning to meet the needs of all students, foster student choice, set goals and empower independence in class and at home. As a middle school literacy specialist, it will be a resource I recommend

to teachers again and again. --Abbe Hocherman, Pollard Middle School Literacy Specialist

If the idea of flipping lessons in your writing workshop is appealing to you, but you are not sure where to begin, the answer is in this book. I have seen firsthand how Dana and Sonja's approach to writing workshop transforms students' writing. As a technology facilitator, I appreciate resources that present innovative approaches to learning and make teachers comfortable. Dana and Sonja have done just that. I am thrilled to have this resource at my disposal when consulting with writing teachers interested in incorporating technology in a meaningful, impactful way. --Christopher Keogh, Technology Facilitator

#### About the Author

Dana has taught elementary and middle school for more than ten years. She currently teaches fifth grade English and is earning her doctorate in Curriculum & Teaching at Teachers College, Columbia University. Dedicated to the ever-expanding applications of technology in the classroom, she has presented at conferences on the use of iPads, wikis and blogs in the classroom. Passionate about this work, her first book, *Teaching Interpretation: Using Text-Based Evidence to Construct Meaning*, co-authored with Sonja Cherry-Paul, combines her love for teaching reading with digital resources. Follow Dana on Twitter @LitLearnAct.

Sonja has taught 5th and 6th grade middle school students for more than fifteen years and is currently working to complete her doctorate in curriculum and teaching at Teachers College, Columbia University. She has presented at conferences on reading instruction that makes central issues related to power and perspective and has provided professional development for numerous educators on the teaching of reading and writing. Sonja is a committee member for The Jane Addams Children's Book Award, which acknowledges the work of authors and illustrators who promote peace and equality. Her first book, *Teaching Interpretation: Using Text-Based Evidence to Construct Meaning*, co-authored with Dana Johansen, is reflective of her ongoing work to propel students' growth as readers and help them view the world through multiple lenses. Follow Sonja on Twitter @LitLearnAct.

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#### Ernestine Miller:

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#### David Hernandez:

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**Ann Morgan:**

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