

Focus Correction Areas

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With the Collins Writing Program, students write so often that teachers couldn't possibly mark every error on every paper. Focus Correction Areas (FCAs), cited in the meta-study *Writing Next* as a best practice in writing instruction, provide the solution. With FCAs students focus on three areas in need of improvement per assignment. Grades are based on these three areas only, saving teachers significant correcting time.

What Is a Focus Correction Area?

Focus Correction Areas (FCAs) are a powerful tool to help students target areas of improvement and allow teachers to plan effective instruction as well as grade papers quickly and efficiently. Focus correcting is a selective approach to grading student writing that allows students to concentrate on a few growth areas at a time out of hundreds of possibilities. FCAs are used in Type Three, Type Four and Type Five writing. Three FCAs are assigned to each writing activity. The FCAs are very clearly outlined for students so that there are no surprises.

Types of FCAs

Focus Correction Areas to Align with State and National Standards

We have reviewed state and national standards to provide Collins Writing Program users with Focus Correction Areas (FCAs) for opinion/argument writing, informative writing, and narrative writing for grades K-12. The FCAs shown here focus on the critical, specialized skills that students will need to be effective writers. In addition, these FCAs address many of the other Common Core State Standards.

- Opinion Writing FCAs for Grades K-2 (http://collinsed.com/PDFs/Resources/FCAs/fca_k-2_opinion.pdf)
- Opinion Writing FCAs for Grades 3-5 (http://collinsed.com/PDFs/Resources/FCAs/fca_3-5_opinion.pdf)
- Argument Writing FCAs for Grades 6-8 (http://collinsed.com/PDFs/Resources/FCAs/fca_6-8_argument.pdf)
- Argument Writing FCAs for Grades 9-12 (http://collinsed.com/PDFs/Resources/FCAs/fca_9-12_argument.pdf)
- Informative Writing FCAs for Grades K-2 (http://collinsed.com/PDFs/Resources/FCAs/fca_k-2_informative.pdf)
- Informative Writing FCAs for Grades 3-5 (http://collinsed.com/PDFs/Resources/FCAs/fca_3-5_informative.pdf)
- Informative Writing FCAs for Grades 6-8 (http://collinsed.com/PDFs/Resources/FCAs/fca_6-8_informative.pdf)

- Informative Writing FCAs for Grades 9-12 (http://collinsed.com/PDFs/Resources/FCAs/fca_9-12_informative.pdf)
- Narrative Writing FCAs for Grades K-2 (http://collinsed.com/PDFs/Resources/FCAs/fca_k-2_narrative.pdf)
- Narrative Writing FCAs for Grades 3-5 (http://collinsed.com/PDFs/Resources/FCAs/fca_3-5_narrative.pdf)
- Narrative Writing FCAs for Grades 6-8 (http://collinsed.com/PDFs/Resources/FCAs/fca_6-8_narrative.pdf)
- Narrative Writing FCAs for Grades 9-12 (http://collinsed.com/PDFs/Resources/FCAs/fca_9-12_narrative.pdf)

General Focus Correction Areas

- Content
 - Clear statement of purpose
 - Sufficient, relevant details
 - Similarities and differences explained
- Organization
 - Ideas in logical order
 - Transitions
 - Conclusion that reinforces, summarizes
- Style
 - Vivid, powerful verbs
 - A beginning that draws the reader in
 - Figurative language used
- Conventions
 - Correct end marks
 - Proper use of quotations
 - Complete sentences

RELATED QUICK LINKS

- Writing Across the Curriculum (<http://collinsed.com/approach/writing-across-the-curriculum/>)
- Five Types of Writing (<http://collinsed.com/approach/five-types-of-writing/>)
- Classroom Management (<http://collinsed.com/approach/classroom-management/>)
- FAQs (<http://collinsed.com/approach/faqs/>)

About Our Company

The Collins Writing Program delivers high-quality, professional development to improve students' written communication skills and build subject area knowledge. Our cross-curricular writing model has been used successfully by thousands of teachers and millions of students in K-12 classrooms for more than 30 years ... long before state and national standards called for frequent, non-fiction writing in all subject areas.

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