



MISIC Professional Development Course Title: *Focus on What Matters: Learning through Writing*

Licensure Renewal Credit Hours 1
MISIC contact: Jamie Morgan jamie@misiciowa.org

Facilitator/Instructor(s)

Note: Facilitators/instructors are not eligible for licensure renewal credit for this course.
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Course Description

This course includes a one-day workshop *Learning through Writing*, and, as an extension of the workshop, the completion of one micro-credential of the participant's choice from any the micro-credentials in the bundles of Argumentative Writing (4), ELA/Literacy Shifts (5), Informative/Explanatory Writing (4), Vocabulary Instruction (4).
Go to <https://misiciowa.org/quick-links/micro-credentials/> to select the micro-credential.

Writing as a tool for learning enhances comprehension, critical thinking, and retention of knowledge. When students engage in writing to learn, they actively synthesize and articulate their understanding of a subject matter, transforming complex concepts into coherent and organized thoughts. Putting ideas into words deepens their understanding and helps identify gaps in their knowledge. Writing enables learners to analyze and evaluate information critically. Writing also aids memory retention, as it reinforces neural connections and strengthens the learning process. Whether through graphic organizers, notetaking, or reflections, writing facilitates a more profound connection with the content. Tools and strategies for incorporating writing across all content areas in grades 3-12 will be modeled; ideas for addressing writing with artificial intelligence programs will be included.

This course is appropriate for classroom teachers, instructional coaches, teacher leaders, and administrators.

Course Outcomes

Participants will know, understand, and/or be able to...

- Explain how writing benefits understanding and retention and promotes critical thinking.
- Understand the value of informal writing assignments that need not be formally graded.
- Incorporate writing strategies and tools into their instruction to engage students in processing information at a deeper level.
- Use writing strategies as a formative assessment tool.



- Utilize resources to understand the possible roles AI may have in classroom instruction.

Schedule and Delivery

Note: 15 collaborative learning hours are required for each credit offered.

- November 9: *Focus on What Matters - Learning through Writing* workshop, 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:00, 5 hours.
- November 9-November 17: Reflection of the workshop. As an extension of learning from the workshop, answer the following three elements. On the document, include your name and school district. Submit this reflection by end of the day November 17 to jamie@misiciowa.org. 1 hour.
 - Here's what I learned: description of the key learnings.
 - So what - why/how this is important to me OR how what I learned in this session impacts my instruction.
 - Now what I will do with what I've learned.
- November 10-February 9, 2024: Select one micro-credential from any the micro-credentials in the bundles of Argumentative Writing (4), ELA/Literacy Shifts (5), Informative/Explanatory Writing (4), Vocabulary Instruction (4). Follow the instructions in the micro-credential. Contact Jamie at jamie@misiciowa.org for how to submit your work. 9 hours.

Successful Course Completion and Evidence of Learning

- Full conference attendance from 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:00.
- Reflection paragraph for the workshop. Include
 - Here's what I learned - the key learnings from the workshop.
 - So what - why/how this is important to me OR how what I learned in this session impacts my instruction.
 - Now what I will do with what I've learned.
- Reflection paragraphs will be assessed with the reflection rubric: content (all 3 elements are included), detail and clarity.
- The selected micro-credential will be assessed by its rubric.

Course Policies

- Attendance for the full workshop 9:00-3:00 is expected (5 hours).
- Reflection document should be submitted by end of day November 17 (1 hour).
- Micro-credential should be completed by February 9 (9 hours).
- Any additional time needed beyond the due dates must be approved prior to the due date by contacting Jamie at MISIC (jamie@misiciowa.org).



Course Submissions

Submit course work and reflections to MISIC (jamie@misiciowa.org). A transcript suitable for the BOEE will be sent upon successful completion of the course requirements.