

What is WriterKEY[®]?

WriterKEY[®] is a web-based application used by teachers **and** students to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of writing instruction across the curriculum. WriterKEY[®] is not an e-grader; rather, WriterKEY[®] is a set of innovative tools that enable teachers to give better, differentiated feedback to students. Personalized teacher comments become part of the rich data analytics that monitor progress and guide instruction. Students benefit from tools and resources designed to enable a sustained, supported formative writing experience.

What makes WriterKEY[®] unique?

WriterKEY[®] is the first and only digital tool that was built based on the experience of master teachers of writing to support effective teaching based on proven practices. Our research-based pedagogy is built in at every step as teachers design writing assessments, provide feedback to students, support the revision process, and help students become better writers.

Today's teachers are forced to cobble together tools to support an effective writing curriculum. Many digital tools available to writing teachers are limited to highlighting, cross-out, and comment boxes as the means for providing writing feedback. A few number also have (some or all) pre-built editing call outs, voice commenting, or plagiarism detection. Some also have student collaboration tools for peer editing. Teachers also use function specific tools for writing portfolios such as Dropbox[®], Google Drive[®], and others. However, no application brings all of these tools and features together in one place to support writing across the curriculum and help teachers be more effective. WriterKEY[®] brings all of these tools and features together into a systematic, research-based solution.

WriterKEY[®] is the only web-based application that integrates tools and features with meaningful content. WriterKEY[®] supports students with digital content for every comment; aligns teacher feedback to standards; provides rich data analytics as an integrated action tool for teachers and students; and enhances the revision process with side by side views with content support. Student reflection during the writing process is built in at every step in WriterKEY[®].

What are the most significant tools and features in WriterKEY[®]?

Global Desk

- **Teachers:** Teachers create, edit, and access assignments and Writer's Workshops; status bars give a quick glance view of which students have completed or missing work. Teachers navigate from this desk to view student documents. While viewing documents, teachers review student reflections, view side-by-side draft analysis, provide interactive feedback on writing, score assignments, and consult student performance rubrics. Teachers may clip text directly from their students' writing to use for lesson planning and instructional purposes. For states that have adopted the Common Core State Standards, information is available on every screen.
- **Students:** Students view assignments, access teacher feedback and grades, and begin the assignment submission process with one click. Notes from writing conferences and an ongoing digital portfolio of all their assignments live here as well. Students also

access learning activities from their Global Desk. Students access support in the Training Center and using the Revision Tool.

- **Writer's Workshop:** Peer review tools make the process of students giving feedback to each other effective and efficient. Our peer review tools help students see themselves as *writers* soliciting feedback from *readers*. Customization options allow writers to get the feedback they want; response topics and summary questions are fully supported to help readers give feedback that is specific and meaningful.

Training Center Teachers can customize the support students receive in their feedback. Our implementation model describes teachers who first use WriterKEY[®] to create assignments and then come to the Training Center to model and modify the content to which they will align writing feedback. Students may also access resources to help them understand the instructional objectives and editing marks their teacher selected for an assignment.

Data Center Teachers ***and*** students can view data for a single graded assignment or for longitudinal progress on multiple assignments. Data is continually updated and can be stored for the length of the subscription, allowing students and teachers to monitor long-term progress.

Learning Activities WriterKEY[®] comes with Learning Activities designed to help teachers and students engage in the learning process around the elements of effective writing. These Learning Activities can be used throughout the school year as new skills are being developed. Practice exercises are easily created from student writing without teachers having to waste time copying and pasting text as they read student writing. Students learn more deeply when they practice revising authentic content.

Conferences and Communication Teachers ***and*** students use WriterKEY[®] to take, keep, and share notes about writing. All conferences include the option of voice recording and alignment to instructional objectives. Additionally, the system stores all emails sent reminding students of missing work or custom emails created within WriterKEY[®].

Similarity Index WriterKEY[®] provides summary information about the degree of revision from draft to draft. Side-side by side views allow the teacher to evaluate efficiently. Our Similarity Index also checks student papers against others for every assignment to detect similarity and possible plagiarism. Safe Search options allow for checking text against Internet content.

Sharing and Collaborating Teachers can share student feedback, data, and assignment views with other people such as support staff, counselors, and parents. Additional customizing functions allow WriterKEY[®] to adapt to a teacher's or to a school's special practices.

Writing Portfolios Teachers identify assignments to include or create options for students to select their papers. Portfolio reflection prompts are fully editable both for the full portfolio or individual assignments. Status bars give a quick glance look at student progress. When a student enrolls in a class next year, his/her teachers will be able to view the portfolio along with any feedback on those papers.

Holistic Rubrics Teachers build custom Holistic Rubrics to monitor growth over time on essential traits of writing. School or District Rubrics are implemented easily with a single

step. Holistic scoring does not impact the teacher analysis tools of the feedback process, but rather supplement the grading and evaluation of student writing for curriculum monitoring or progress monitoring.

Revision Tool

- **Side-by-Side Viewing (Teachers)**
When responding to student writers, teachers want to see evidence of revision from draft to draft. WriterKEY[®] makes the viewing of draft revisions efficient with side-by-side viewing from the feedback tool. Teachers see the marked up version next to the clean new one.
- **Side-by-Side Revision (Students)**
Students may use WriterKEY[®] to revise their writing from draft to draft. Students view a draft with teacher feedback next to a rich text editor with a blank version already loaded. Once they complete revisions, handing in the assignment is just a click away. Side-by-side revision is available on any Internet device (tablet, phone, computer).

Post Analysis Feedback Using this advanced setting, a teacher requires students to respond to feedback prior to viewing their grade. Teachers who use this tool note the focus shifting from grades to the effectiveness of the feedback and goal setting with students.

Shared Assignments Monitor curriculum and the progress of students across a grade with our Assignment Library tool. A teacher can build a “library assignment” that other teachers may access and use with their students. With a library assignment, teachers in the same school or district efficiently add an assignment to their desktop, pick due dates, and publish it to their students. Data can be analyzed for an aggregate group of students.

Full integration with PublishKEY™ WriterKEY[®] and PublishKEY work seamlessly together to help students share their writing among all of their experience, interests, and achievements in a personal, professional portfolio. Learn more about PublishKEY™ and see sample portfolios at: <http://www.publishkey.com/>

Integration with Microsoft Office 365[®], Clever[®] and Schoology™ Schools have the option of having WriterKEY[®] integrate with these leading products to provide single sign on and other conveniences for their teachers and students. Additional integrations are underway.

- For additional information, please visit us at: <http://www.writerkey.com/>
- Contact: Doug Silver, Chief Academic Officer at: dsilver@writerkey.com
- Follow us on twitter: [@keys2engage](https://twitter.com/keys2engage)

Piloting WriterKEY[®] Prospective subscribers can pilot our tools and features. Our pilot site has preloaded assignments, student papers, data, and more that can be manipulated by the user. Pilot teachers are able to access resources and tools from unique student perspectives as well. We have a detailed User’s Manual as a resource for the pilot teacher.