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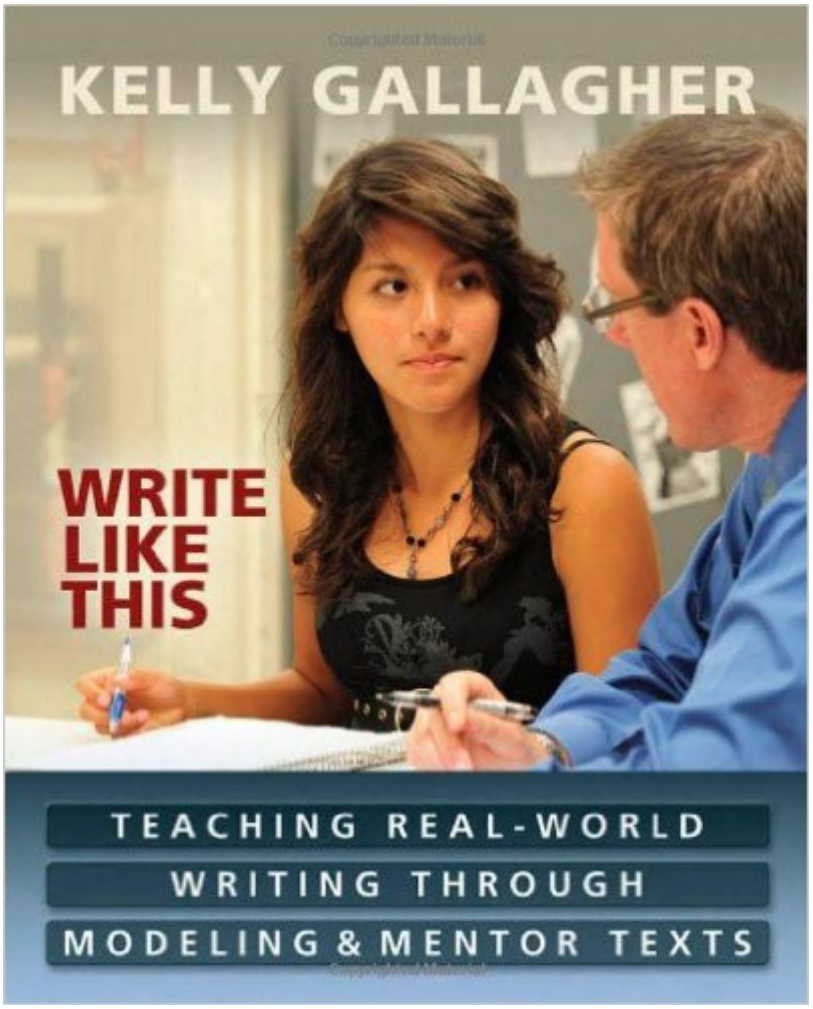
Write Like This: Teaching Real-World Writing Through Modeling And Mentor Texts



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Synopsis

If you want to learn how to shoot a basketball, you begin by carefully observing someone who knows how to shoot a basketball. If you want to be a writer, you begin by carefully observing the work of accomplished writers. Recognizing the importance that modeling plays in the learning process, high school English teacher Kelly Gallagher shares how he gets his students to stand next to and pay close attention to model writers, and how doing so elevates his students' writing abilities. Write Like This is built around a central premise: if students are to grow as writers, they need to read good writing, they need to study good writing, and, most important, they need to emulate good writers.In Write Like This, Kelly emphasizes real-world writing purposes, the kind of writing he wants his students to be doing twenty years from now. Each chapter focuses on a specific discourse: express and reflect, inform and explain, evaluate and judge, inquire and explore, analyze and interpret, and take a stand/propose a solution. In teaching these lessons, Kelly provides mentor texts (professional samples as well as models he has written in front of his students), student writing samples, and numerous assignments and strategies proven to elevate student writing.By helping teachers bring effective modeling practices into their classrooms, Write Like This enables students to become better adolescent writers. More important, the practices found in this book will help our students develop the writing skills they will need to become adult writers in the real world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First, a few facts of life about English teachers: 1.) They're busy people. They endure one of the

biggest paper burdens of any discipline, and they often have neither the time nor the patience for a professional development book pushed their way for consumption during the school year. 2.) If they DO bother reading a PD book, it had better be more practical than theoretical. Teachers are borrowers by nature. Activities and strategies thought out in advance and laid out logically in a book will attract them like honey draws bears.Meaning? If it’s your writing instruction that needs beefing up, WRITE LIKE THIS should find its way onto your to-be-read pile. It is as if Kelly Gallagher has lent you his "writing teacher" playbook -- a mix of writing plays he’s either created or borrowed himself over his career. Gallagher first breaks writing instruction down into six categories, then devotes a chapter to each. They are "Express and Reflect," "Inform and Explain," "Evaluate and Judge," Inquire and Explore," "Analyze and Interpret," and "Take a Stand/Propose a Solution." These are followed with chapters containing helpful hints on revision and editing. You might consider writing for these purposes and these purposes only simplistic, but Gallagher acknowledges that they blend into each other all the time in real-world writing. Master them in isolation and students can eventually step up and combine these skills to good effect.Once you wade into the Big Six chapters, you will find creative activities doable in a single period as well as assignments that might take a few days of writing. Gallagher sends wave after wave, activity after activity, with succinct instructions and humorous asides.

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