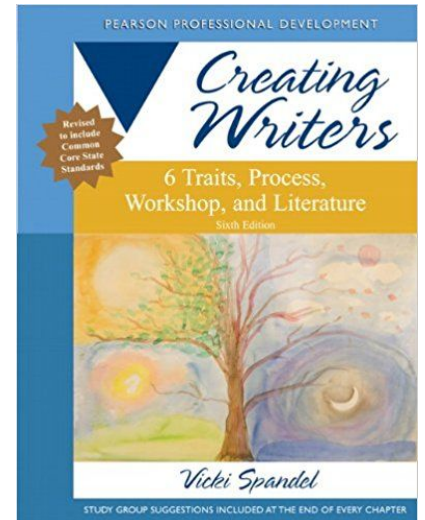


## BRENTWOOD STAFF PROFESSIONAL BOOK CLUB 2017-2018

We had 11 teachers and our two administrators participate in our Staff Book Club this year. We met four times over the course of the year and enjoyed productive discussions focused on the book *Creating Writers* by Vicki Spandel. With a large focus on writing at our school this year this book proved to be a very useful resource as we examined our current practices and considered new ideas to try in the classroom. Below you will find reflections from the staff involved. We have also created a shared [Google Drive folder](#) in order to begin compiling resources to support the teaching of the Six Traits of writing.



### **1. What resonated with you most while reading Vicki Spandel's *Creating Writers*?**

- Just how useful the 6 Traits are when teaching a rich literacy program
- How important it is to explicitly teach and assess with a trait in mind
- How writing with poor grammar can still be good writing
- Having a specific intention for each writing lesson makes you prepared and enables all learners to be successful
- Referring to the 6 traits, great examples and ideas to support lessons for my own class.
- Excellent student and teacher rubrics to use for assessment

### **2. What have you tried/plan to try in your class after reading the book?**

- Going through each trait in the Fall and following up with activities geared specifically to one trait at a time
- Modelling my own thought processes for writing
- More opportunities for oral storytelling
- Consistently teaching all the traits by bringing each trait to the forefront every couple of months rather than teaching each trait sequentially and only teaching it once for a set amount of time.
- I have modelled my own writing as part of each lesson and this has made a huge difference for my students as very often they now interject with suggestions of better word choices, where sentences should end etc..

- I have modelled writing for journals/stories as well as “share the pen” where students and I write together.
- Team teaching writing with my colleagues

**3. What questions/wonderings do you still have about best practices for teaching writing?**

- Should we try to teach all the traits in single year, particularly in primary?
- I still wonder about the assessing of writing and how subjective it is
- I too still wonder about assessing as well as encouraging reluctant writers to write.
- I know it's important to spend time with each writer. In our busy practices, how do we find the time?

**4. What was, for you, the most valuable part of being a part of this year's Staff Book Club?**

- Having time for intentional conversation about best practices in teaching writing - yup this for sure. Most important part!!!
- Really enjoyed the examples and their analysis
- Listening to how others have used the traits in their classroom - particularly hearing what younger grades are doing so that I can think about building off of those lessons
- Making the time to read the book with a thoroughness rather than skipping to parts I need
- The collaborative conversations felt safe and supportive
- Listening to how writing was taught in other people's classes and the sharing of texts that can support the traits in our teaching
- Having one resource that we can all learn from and reference
- Building the Google folder where we can all share our resources with each other