

**The Connect Writing Project and the Transition to College
Presentation to Educational Summit on College and Career Readiness
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**Nancy Kleniewski
Provost and VPAA, Bridgewater State College
nkleniewski@bridgew.edu**

CONNECT Partnership (BCC, CCCC, MCC, BSC, MMA, UMD)

Regional collaboration for mutual benefit
Initiated by CEOs; functional peer networks

AVPs' agenda: improve transfer students' experiences and success

Ensure that expectations were aligned at 2- and 4- year institutions
Began with writing because it is a foundational skill for every student
Second area of discussion was math

Writing Project – since 2003

Goal: ensure that students at CCs have the same expectations for their performance in writing courses as students at the 4-year institutions

Faculty members who teach 1st year writing courses began meeting
Compared syllabi, identified 6 common learning outcomes for Comp. I & II
Developed an evaluation rubric of low, medium, and high performance
Hold an annual conference/training session for faculty (many adjuncts)
Publish common outcomes, rubric, teaching tips, resources on web site
www.connectsemass.org/writing

What preparation will help students be successful writers in college?

Awareness of different types and purposes for writing
Willingness to revise their work through multiple drafts
Knowledge of basics of organization and grammar
Ability to read and engage with a text
Experience with using evidence, including secondary sources
(These are in the Frameworks but not necessarily tested in MCAS)

High School – college alignment: some college teachers' perspectives

MCAS stresses the 5-paragraph essay, which can become a straitjacket
Students struggle with finding their own voice
HS curriculum emphasizes writing about literature; college writing focuses
on skills that can be used across disciplines, not just English class
(e.g., organization, logical support for claims, analysis)
Many freshmen report no experience with writing a research paper in HS
Some students cannot distinguish between writing a report and arguing a
position
College teachers want to know what K-12 teachers need and how to help