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## Developing Academic Discourse Skills for English Learners in Grades 4-12 Through Teacher-Mediated Discussion and Writing

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### Description:

English Learners and striving readers approach 4-12 schooling poorly equipped for the discussion and writing demands of standards-based coursework. However, daily casual classroom interaction and unstructured free-writing tasks do not contribute to competent discourse skills for academic success. This workshop provides participants with a dynamic instructional process for structuring rigorous and accountable academic discussion throughout lesson stages as a springboard to relatively brief, routine doses of teacher-mediated academic writing practice. Using hands-on demonstration, Dr. Kinsella illustrates the transition from scaffolded “academic talk” to mediated writing of “ten-minute paragraphs” that serve as the building blocks for subsequent multiple-paragraph papers. She illustrates how to help inexperienced writers learn to develop their ideas more fully, using more precise and appropriate syntax and vocabulary. Dr. Kinsella demonstrates the process of guiding students in utilizing discussion content to write competently, moving from “I’ll do it” to “We’ll do it” to “You’ll do it” to “You do it.” Participants will complete guided lesson planning tasks and leave with extensive guidelines and practical resources on a CD to implement this academic discourse strategy.

Note: This workshop is focused exclusively on 4-12 English-Language Arts and intermediate to advanced ELD, not beginning ELD or other subject areas.

**Date:** October 22 & 23, 2008

**Time:** 8 am – 4 pm

**Location:** Santa Clara County Office of Education.  
1290 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95131

**Fee:** \$325.00 (Includes breakfast and lunch)

**Registration:** <http://santaclara.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=13851>

**Registration Deadline:** Wednesday, October 8, 2008

### Presenter:

**Kate Kinsella, Ed.D.** is an adjunct faculty member in Secondary Education at San Francisco State University and provides consultancy nationally regarding effective instruction of adolescent English Learners. Dr. Kinsella has authored numerous books, articles, and curricula for secondary English learners. Dr. Kinsella has received numerous awards, including the 2005 California Department of Education’s Award of Excellence for her contributions to improving the education of immigrant youth throughout the state.