

# Preparing 30-1 Students for English Diploma Exam (A Focus on Personal Response Writing)



### Learning Opportunity

## TARGET AUDIENCE: GRADE 10-12 ENGLISH TEACHERS AND TEACHERS OF STUDENTS IN UPGRADING PROGRAMS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

Through this writing workshop, teachers will learn a successful protocol for teaching students how to write a 'creative piece' for the 30-1 personal narrative portion of the diploma. By utilizing a combination of techniques, teachers will learn how to teach students to break down the task, formulate a theme and use that formal thesis to construct a creative piece instead of a critical essay. The techniques taught can be used in any or all high school level English classrooms and ultimately, prepare students for the Alberta 30-1 English diploma exam. The rationale for focusing on a creative response as opposed to an essay is that critical writing tends to be a challenging area for students so instead of asking them to write two essays for their diploma, this technique leverages natural story- telling skills that most of our students already have so as to earn some points in areas such as voice, style and narrative structure.

This learning opportunity is being offered through curriculum implementation funding from Alberta Education.

### Presenters

#### Tammy Wolinsky

is currently working at Bow Valley College. After receiving her Master in Education with an emphasis on English Language Learners as well as at-risk youth, Tammy worked as a high school English teachers in notably some of the most gang and

drug-infested neighbourhoods in the United States including Rampart, Harlem and the Bronx. Having spent five years working with Foundations for the Future Charter High School as an AP instructor, and Inclusion Coordinator, Tammy then worked as a University Consultant and Sessional Instructor for Ambrose University and returned to her passion for inner-city youth by working with Chinook Learning Centre.

