

# DOWNLOAD PDF USING THE WORKSHOP APPROACH IN THE HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH CLASSROOM

## Chapter 1 : The Workshop Model: Tips and Strategies for Your Classroom - Minds in Bloom

*Using the Workshop Approach in the High School English Classroom: Modeling Effective Writing, Reading, and Thinking Strategies for Student Success by Cynthia D. Urbanski is revolutionizing the way I teach 9thth grade writing.*

I have to admit, this is pretty darn exciting! The Workshop Model was originally developed to by Carmen Farina and Lucy Calkins as a way to teach writing but is now used for every subject in many districts. I love this article that has a little information about workshop. Workshop is a teaching structure that pushes students to be creative and responsible in their own learning. The Workshop Model asks students to take charge of their own learning, becoming active and engaged in their work and development of understanding. Using workshop allows teachers to be actively engaged with students individually or with small groups, facilitating and assisting in that understanding, while also providing individualized support. Students who are engaged in the workshop model are actively learning the material and concepts they need to master throughout the year.

Components of the Workshop Model What do these components look like? In my second grade classroom, we use the workshop model for everything! And, yes, my students work for 60 minutes independently – no joke! It took us a while to get here! You would gradually release responsibility to your students based on their needs and abilities. I love this graphic by Amanda Nickerson that shows what this gradual release might look like. I know what you are thinking. But let me just get you thinking for a minute. Your students rotate to five different stations during both Reading and Math, and it takes them two minutes to transition. In the small scheme of things, that 20 minutes may not seem like a lot, but imagine what you can do with that 20 minutes. For me that would be two quality reading conferences in reading and a small group lesson with my high kids in math. Also imagine how much time that adds up to in one whole school year – 3, minutes! Here are some other reasons why this structure is beneficial. This mostly pertains to the preparation part of planning. I do use a lot of task cards, but I print them as packets rather than put them on a ring, because I will usually have different ones based on where my students are at in their mastery of the concept. This also makes less materials for me to organize! One of the greatest benefits, in my opinion, is the amount of time that students spend engaged in the curriculum. Instead of spending just 10 minutes on one small part, they can really dig deep and start working on some problem solving and real work tasks, which not only builds their thinking skills but also gets them to really understand the concepts they are learning. Getting Started with Workshop I know we are halfway through the year, and now might not be the best time to switch your routines. I do hope that I got you thinking about the ways you can change your classroom by using the Workshop Model. I would encourage you to start with one or two subjects and really give it a try – Reading and Writing are usually the first thing that most teachers switch over – but you could start anywhere! And, of course, this is just a small bit of information about workshop. There is so much more out there to learn. Here are some resources to help get you started! I am also a avid music lover. I sang in my school chorus, and I played flute in our symphonic band and baritone saxophone in our jazz ensemble. I also love getting outside and taking my dog for a hike or going to see the latest movie at the theater.