



P.O. Box 7592, Missoula, MT 59807 • admin@writingcoachesofmontana.org • www.writingcoachesofmontana.org

Teacher, Student, & Administrator Testimonials

Direct testimonials demonstrate why Writing Coaches of Montana's services are so impactful. Coaches not only affect students' literacy and efficacy, but our model also supports teachers and transforms local citizens into public school advocates.

Teachers

- "I have seen students who were reluctant to visit with adults about their writing change their opinion of it even after one short session. I saw students who have difficulty connecting to their academic work, open themselves to a conversation with an adult. They gleaned new perspectives and ideas to help their voices come to life. For students (especially!) who don't love school, this perspective helps them see that there is purpose in communication and writing outside of classroom walls."
- "Students depend too much on the eyes of a teacher, and when they had a new (and unknown) adult audience, it helped my students to have more at stake than what they see as just a score from their teacher. They had to up the ante, and the result was an awesome room full of growth!"
- "One of my favorite outcomes of the program is the benefit to my kids on the 'real life' front: meeting and talking with people of different generations, sharing their ideas, and seeing how they use writing and critical thinking skills in their lives and jobs. I am always so impressed watching my students working to improve their eye contact (phone generation) and interpersonal speaking skills. I feel these skills are essential for their upcoming first job interviews."
- "Not only do the kids enjoy the process and seem genuinely proud to share their thoughts and writing, they seem to value another objective opinion. They get feedback from me all year and much like that of a parent, I'm sure they will discount it after a while. The praise and constructive criticism they get from someone they have never met genuinely seems to bolster their feelings toward their writing. No matter where on the writing capability spectrum they fall, they all seem to enjoy the process."
- "I have been raving about yesterday. Hearing the conversations that were happening between my writers and the coaches made my heart happy. The kids were so nervous to



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begin with, and when I checked in with them, they loved it. They said it was very beneficial.”

- “Thank you so much for this experience with the writing coaches. I've graded a few of the projects, and I can see the influence of the sessions!”
- “Not only did productivity increase, but more importantly, your coaches personalized the writing process--the students were writing for their coaches!”
- “You're crazy if you don't use writing coaches! If you want your kids to be confident writers, use coaches.”

Students

- “When working with my writing coach, I recognized the true impact words carry. After sharing my poem, I was told how meaningful my writing was to my coach. This experience contributed to my ability to utilize emotions to enhance the quality of my work. I'm so grateful for the experience of sharing my poetry with a writing coach!”
- “My writing coach offered extremely helpful advice and mentioned specific changes/additions for my essay, which gave me a clear path for revisions.”
- “The most helpful aspect for me was when my writing coach read my paper back to me, because it gave me a whole new perspective and helped me change sentences that were wordy or didn't make sense.”
- “My writing coach was very kind and didn't hold back on giving me proper feedback. She also complimented my writing where she saw fit which made me feel better about it.”
- “I thought it was helpful how my writing coach didn't point out what I could change but instead let me figure it out with them. I also liked having both positive and negative critiques.”
- “I enjoyed my coach's specific advice about writing my essay with the audience in mind. She helped me avoid generalizations, repetition, and refine my message.”



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- “It was helpful to have someone read my writing who didn't know me and was the outsider looking in. They told me to be descriptive and use the five senses in my writing, which I think made my vignettes more enjoyable to read.”
- “I wish you could coach me on every assignment!”

Administrators

- “As a high school we do not have many volunteers who devote extensive time working on academia with our students. However this year and hopefully in the foreseeable future, our students gain experience and expertise from [coaches] who live in the [local area] who value education and share their knowledge of writing with high school students.”
- “It’s important to bring Writing Coaches of Montana into schools because it allows for relevance building. So often we engage in learning that is conceptual or abstracted. By having an exchange with another person that provides guidance and feedback, we begin to have a greater sense of authenticity and meaning-making. One of the things that really nurtures us as learners is relationships.”
- “Writing Coaches of Montana allows the community to see the relevance of our schools. Our schools are a product of our community in terms of the direct participation [of local citizens], but also financially. Bringing community members in creates awareness to the state and reality of public education. It allows those bonds to be passed when they see how crowded the school is. It allows those levies to be voted for when they see how slow the internet is.”
- “The coaches were professional, helped guide our students with the writing process, gave students valuable feedback and provided our teachers with additional support to help individualize instruction of our students’ writing.”