

Here's what I think ...

By Ty Ankrom

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In an effort to provide professional development opportunities to educators, the Pickaway County Educational Service Center again will offer its Summer Academy in June.

The Summer Academy, offered through Ashland University, allows teachers the opportunity to complete graduate-level workshops and earn college credit.

This year's Summer Academy features two two-day seminars focusing on writing standards.

Inside the Writing Standards: Clarifying Grade Level Writing Expectations will be offered June 8 and 9 and Inside the Writing Standards: Writing Stronger Rubrics will be offered June 10 and 11. Courses will be held from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day and will meet at the ESC, 2050 Stoneridge Drive.

Both sessions, led by Dr. Francis Rogers, are designed as "make-and-take workshops" to provide participants with hands-on practices.

In Clarifying Grade Level Writing Expectations, Rogers will provide tools to understanding the writing standards and how to explain the academic expectations to students. Participants also will learn about available resources and spend time critiquing public and commercial resources.

In Writing Stronger Rubrics, participants will put in use the strategies introduced in Clarifying Grade Level Writing Expectations to create a master rubric.

In addition, students will learn the characteristics of strong and weak rubrics, learn the elements of master rubrics, how they are used to support mastery learning and learn to connect or blend two or more standards in a single rubric.

Rogers said that students who take both sessions will be able to better read grade-level standards and review rubrics with a critical eye toward clarity, objectivity and practicality.

Rogers has more than 25 years of experience in curriculum, instruction and assessment and is the co-author of *Measuring Student Growth in the Classroom*.

To register for either seminar or for more information about the courses, go to www.pickawayesc.org and click on the Summer 2015 Courses link.

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