

Collins FAQ

Can a Type 3 writing become a Type 4?

Yes. You can make this transition either by changing the FCAs or by using the Type Three as a rough draft and the Type Four as the final draft. Changing the FCAs maximizes the learning experience, allowing students to learn and practice more than one set of skills with a given assignment.

What is the recommended number of FCAs for a Type Three or Four?

Three. It is best to use FCAs of various types. I typically use one FCA for content, one for style or organization, and one for grammar or mechanics. For example, for a comparison paragraph: Paragraph examines at least three points of comparison (content); Topic sentence clearly identifies what is to be compared (organization); No run-on sentences or comma splices (grammar).

Do Type Three and Four assignments always have to be multi-paragraph, full length essays?

No. The definition of a Type Three is an assignment with FCAs that students read aloud to themselves in a “one-foot voice,” making changes on the original draft. The Type Four requires peer editing and a new draft. In neither case is length part of the definition. One paragraph Type Three and Four assignments are excellent for building student skills or for use as part of a short answer test in your subject.

I have my students write in journals. Can journals be used with this program?

Journals can absolutely be used in the program. A journal entry is really a Type One assignment. Just be sure that students do their entries using the correct format. The consistency of format is important for the success of the program.

How important is skipping lines really!? (often asked by students who are too lazy to remember to do it!)