Thanks for joining our presentation on Friday! Here is a synopsis of our scaffolding tool. Feel free to download the PP presentation and use the steps in your classroom to guide the writing process. Feel free to contact me, Nancy Nunes, at nancynunes@k12.waltham.ma.us or Tom O’Toole, at totoole@k12.waltham.ma.us if you have any further questions.

Writing with Colors is an award-winning, innovative approach to writing.  It was initially developed to scaffold the MCAS long composition for ELL students in Waltham who were struggling with the complex nature of writing while still acquiring language.

Writing with Colors supports student writing and thinking about writing for the multi-level ELL classroom.  Although applicable for any student, Writing with Colors provides a comprehensive framework that is essential for ELL students from pre-writing through revision because it provides them with the tools to ensure that all elements of writing appear in each essay while creating an atmosphere conducive to independent writing.

The color-coding system explicitly teaches the writing process by providing a specific format for developing topic sentences, adding transitional words and phrases that help students transition from one idea to the next, identifying specific and concrete examples from the text, providing a clear-cut explanation of each example to indicate understanding, and concluding with a clincher to synthesize the topic.  The documented success of this framework has provided teachers in the district with an incentive to modify it for use across different writing genres. This framework is not meant to replace current writing programs, rather it enhances them.

Presenters will provide an overview of how to explicitly teach both the expository and narrative genres to students and will show examples of student work. Participants will receive a color-coded copy each step of the writing process to display in the classroom to remind students of the elements integral to each stage of writing. If time allows, participants will practice writing a quick essay using the Writing With Colors framework.