How can I try out Writer’s Workspace (WWS)?
You can try out the live WWS site immediately by going to http://connected.mcgraw-hill.com and using the access codes below.

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Is WWS aligned to the Common Core State Standards?
Yes, Writer’s Workspace fully aligns to the Common Core State Standards. Contact your sales representative if you would like to see a grade-by-grade correlation of WWS to the CCSS.

Are there any special features I should look for with regards to Common Core State Standards?
- Common Core Standards are referenced at point of use throughout Writer’s Workspace.
- Additional CCSS Grammar Practice is included for students in the “Student Resources” section. This additional grammar practice will match what the CCSS indicates as required in each grade level.
- The 2012 CCSS Edition Grammar & Composition Handbook is available as an interactive eHandbook. Look for it under “Student Resources” and click on “Grammar and Composition > eHandbook.” The CCSS Edition Grammar & Composition eHandbook provides additional CCSS practice, with CCSS indicated at point of use throughout the text, and writing workshops match those within WWS, including the CCSS-indicated genres.
- Writing genres match CCSS-indicated genres: 24 Writing Workshops (8 genres, 3 workshops per genre) in each grade level, a minimum of FIFTEEN of these workshops focus on the CCSS-indicated genres. For a breakdown of writing workshop titles per grade level, please see pages 4 and 5 of the Program Overview Brochure.
On the genre home page, you will see each genre clearly listed in bold, and it will include what CCSS-indicated genre it falls under (i.e. In grades 6-8, Persuasive Essay is taught, and it is labeled as “CCSS Argument.” See also below:

**Does WWS offer a portfolio function?**
Yes, a portfolio feature is available through MyFiles on the ConnectED Student Dashboard (this is where WWS lives). Once students publish their composition, they will have the ability to export to pdf, and save in their MyFiles folder. Any saved documents in MyFiles will stay with them through graduation.

**Does WWS have a plagiarism tool?**
Yes, the teacher version of WWS links directly to Plagiarism Checker. Once a student composition is in “published” status, teachers will have the ability to run documents through plagiarism checker.

**Does WWS offer instruction at the paragraph and sentence levels?**
Yes, the Step 3 Writing Workshops instruct students through each stage of the writing process, including detailed instruction at the paragraph and sentence levels.

**Does WWS include an online essay grader?**
Yes, immediate-scoring online essay grader is included with the adoption of WWS.

Students will create and type their compositions into the WWS platform, and Online Essay Grader (OEG) will score directly from WWS, making the process seamless for both students and teachers. If working within a Challenge workshop, new prompts may be created and scored with essay grader, giving students and teachers ultimate flexibility. Students will access this automated scoring in the “Edit” stage of the writing process, while teachers will access in the “Publish” stage.

**How is grammar addressed within WWS?**
WWS is a complete integrated grammar and composition program. Grammar is addressed in three ways in WWS:

1) Classic, stand alone grammar instruction is available in the interactive eHandbook (WWS includes an eHandbook of the new CCSS Edition *Grammar & Composition Handbook*).

2) Additional CCSS Grammar Instruction is found in the Student Resources section. These instruction and practice opportunities address grammar skills specifically indicated by the CCSS at each grade level.

3) Grammar instruction is seamlessly integrated into each of the Step 3 Writing Workshops. For example, if a student is working on the Story genre, instruction will be woven in on how to correctly punctuate dialog.

**How is vocabulary addressed within WWS?**
Vocabulary is addressed in three main ways in WWS:

1) Located within the hyperlinked interactive reading lessons in Step 1, reading lessons include targeted vocabulary instruction, and thus, vocabulary is taught within the context of the reading-writing connection. The reading lesson includes features such as a
vocabulary preview in “Before You Read,” vocabulary defined at point of use within the selection, and an in-depth vocabulary review and skill practice in “After You Read.”

2) In the Step 3 instruction blades, academic vocabulary is linked with pop-up vocabulary (i.e. topic sentence, main idea, etc) to help students learn literary elements and key terms.

3) Each CCSS Edition Grammar & Composition eHandbook includes a complete chapter on grade level-specific Spelling & Vocabulary.

**What workbooks are available with WWS?**

WWS instruction utilizes two main workbooks (both in an online format):

- Interactive Reading
- Reading-Writing Practice

Since WWS is an all-online program, paper versions of these workbooks do not exist. Teachers can grade saved work immediately online, or students will have the option to print out their completed activities. No more workbooks to order every year, no more wasted paper, no more lugging home piles of papers to grade.

**How many writing workshops are found at each grade level?**

24 writing workshops are included in each grade level of WWS. There are 8 writing genres, and 3 writing workshops per genre. Remember that at least 15 of the 24 writing workshops focus on a CCSS-indicated genre.

Writing workshops never repeat topics between grade levels.

**Is there a book or disc to accompany WWS?**

WWS is a completely online, integrated language arts program. There are no discs to have to worry about keeping track of or replacing each year.

If you WANT an accompanying print component, we do have available the **Writer’s Workspace + Grammar & Composition Handbook** bundle.

This bundle comes with the newly revised 2012 CCSS Edition Grammar & Composition Handbook. You will find CCSS references at point of use, additional grammar instruction, modeling, and practice, and writing workshops that match those found in Writer’s Workspace.

Within Writer’s Workspace, you will find an interactive eBook version of the Grammar & Composition Handbook under the Student Resources section, and online assessment to match the assessment within the Handbook.

Please see your sales representative for more information.

**What happens if there is not Internet access in my school/classroom on a day that I planned on working in WWS?**

If you are concerned about spotty Internet access, the WWS + Grammar & Composition Handbook bundle might be a terrific option for you. The writing workshops and assessments in the Handbook match those found in Writer’s Workspace.

**What are the internet and network requirements to support WWS?**

WWS is both PC and MAC compatible. A full list of system requirements can be found:

- On either the student or teacher dashboard, by clicking on “Minimum System Requirements” at the bottom of the screen
- By contacting your sales representative

Updated 4.16.2012
Can more than one student share a student account?
Developing one’s voice as a writer is a very personal experience. So each individual can get the very most out of their learning experience, each student is required to have their own WWS account.

Can teachers see editing history of the students' writing?
Yes. As students progress through the stages of the Step 3 Writing Workshop (Plan, Draft, Revise, Edit, Publish), student work is saved in each stage. Once a student finishes a stage, the teacher has the ability to view the student’s work and post comments. When the student comes back to their composition, their work thus far gets imported into the next stage. They continue writing and making edits to their composition, and they can easily view previous drafts/stages (with teacher comments attached) at any time to review.

Can I use Writer’s Workspace on an iPad?
WWS functions to its full capabilities on any computer, tablet, or mobile device that meets its system requirements, including the ability to run Adobe Flash Player.

Currently, WWS is approximately 70% iPad compatible, and recommended for teacher, as opposed to student iPad use. For a detailed list of what features will and will not work on an iPad, please contact your sales representative.

As we move forward with product development and system upgrades, we will take into consideration efforts that will eventually allow full WWS and iPad compatibility.

What kind of assessment tool will be available with WWS?
WWS uses McGraw-Hill eAssessment. eAssessment is completely web-based (like WWS) and runs in an Internet browser, so there are no discs to keep track of or software to download. It is a full test generator, and has all the ease and capabilities of ExamView, but features much more. For a side-by-side feature comparison of McGraw-Hill eAssessment to ExamView, please contact your sales representative.