Dear 5th & 8th Grade Teachers,

Last year over 91,000 Utah students in our state used Utah Write. USOE has purchased a contract making this program **free** for grades 5 and 8. We want to help you and your students get the most out of it this year!

NEW 5TH & 8TH GRADE TEACHERS:
Utah Write is an Interactive Writing tool that gives students **personalized and instant feedback** on their writing. Students show **improved writing skills and scores on the DWA**. Teachers enjoy providing **meaningful feedback for students** and having their students' writing **organized in a simple way.**

To set up your account click here.
For **Teacher Sign-up** instructions click on the video below.

EXPERIENCED 5TH & 8TH GRADE TEACHERS:
To enroll your students, click the video below and scroll to 2:14.

In previous years, *if your students used Utah Write in the grade level before entering your class,* you were able to select them from your school roster without creating a new account for them. Because of updates to the program, this feature will be available in subsequent years, but this year all student accounts need to be created.

NEW UPDATES

- Essay categories and new prompts match the common core
- Attach videos, images and documents to essay prompts
- Sharing students' work between various teachers. For example English & Science teachers can both view their shared students' writing assignments.
- Click here for more information on updates

For more user video tutorials click here. If you have questions beyond what the video tutorials demonstrate, simply contact our customer support at support@utahwrite.com or (866) 691-1231. If your school district or charter organization would like a free on-site training for teachers, or if there is anything more we can do to help you implement these resources, please contact me.

Best regards for a *great* school year ahead,

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Utah Write
Summary of New Features in Version 2.0
Release Date: July 12, 2013

New Common Core Writing Prompts

- **New pre-packaged writing prompts** in each grade level for all three Common Core writing categories:
  - Argumentative (Standard 1)
  - Informative/Explanatory (Standard 2)
  - Narrative (Standard 3)
- Teachers, School Administrators, and District Administrators can create **custom writing prompts** for all three Common Core writing categories (Standards 1 through 3)

- Teachers can add stimulus material (reading passages, websites, and images) to a custom prompt in one step (for Standards 7 through 9)
- Topics tab relabeled to Prompts tab.

New Common Core Scoring Rubric

- Persuasive changed to **Argumentative** (Standard 1)
- Expository and Informational/Descriptive changed to **Informative/Explanatory** (Standard 2)
- Six-point trait score changed to a **five-point trait score** across all writing sites
- Greater emphasis on **task , audience,** and **purpose** (Standard 4)

New Writing Prompt Advanced Options

- Number of Essay Retries- default setting changed from 3 to 5
    - Alignment to Common Core writing standards (Standards 5, 6, and 10)
    - Alignment to research findings on best practices for helping struggling writers (Wilson & Andrada, 2013)
- Show/Hide Grammar and Spelling Errors and Suggestions
    - Teachers can determine if and when students can see the automated spelling and grammar errors and suggestions by selecting the number of drafts a student must complete prior to seeing the errors and suggestions.
    - If teachers enable students to view grammar/spelling errors and suggestions, students can choose to hide/show the errors and suggestions while making revisions.
    - Encourages students to make revisions before final editing.

New Scoring Categories to Support Common Core Writing Standards

- Textual Evidence (Standard 8 and 9)
    - Teachers can score student essays for **textual evidence** using a 0-3 scoring rubric. In the student score report, teachers can select the number of stars that correspond with the appropriate score point and add feedback in the comment box. Students can view the score and feedback through their writing portfolio.
- Content Scoring (Standards 1,2,8, and 9)
    - Teachers can score student essays for **content accuracy** using a 0-3 scoring rubric. In the student score report, teachers can select the number of stars that correspond with the appropriate score point and add feedback in the comment box. Students can view the score and feedback through their writing portfolio.

New and Improved Reports

- Common Core Writing Category Report
    - Displays student and class writing scores by Common Core writing standard (Standard 1: Argumentative, Standard 2: Informative/Explanatory, Standard 3: Narrative)
- Textual Evidence and Content Accuracy score columns
    - Added to the Student Portfolio, Monthly Progress, Prompt, and Student Averages reports.
- Animated Bar Graphs
    - Added to the student score report, class performance reports and progress reports.
    - Graphs can be filtered
- Graphic Organizers are Printer-Friendly
    - Graphic organizers can now be printed along with the entire student score report

Improved Interactive Lessons

- Lesson categories and titles reflect Common Core Writing Standards
    - Language to Word Choice
    - Persuasive to Argumentative
    - Expository and Informational/Descriptive to Informative/Explanatory
    - Common Core Writing standard numbers added to the lesson description