

Brisk Through Student Writing— How the AI Tool “Brisk” Will Help Teachers Give Targeted and Expedited Feedback



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Host Organization: Amazon Lab 126

ETP Type: PD

Subject/Grade: 5th (possibly 4th)

Cost: None for Brisk Educator Free;
TBD for School and District Plan

Length of Lesson: Two sessions,
both less than one day

Abstract

This ETP addresses a critical challenge facing grades 4-5 teachers at our school: the time-intensive process of evaluating student writing and providing targeted feedback. With increasing responsibilities including core subject instruction, Social Emotional Learning, and Project Based Learning units, teachers managing classes of approximately 30 students struggle to provide timely, quality feedback on multiple drafts of written work.

The proposed solution introduces Brisk, an AI-powered writing evaluation tool, through a two-phase professional development program. The initial session will familiarize teachers with Brisk's basic functionality and demonstrate its application in providing targeted writing feedback. Teachers will have hands-on practice using the tool with existing student writing samples. The second session will focus on integrating team-developed rubrics into Brisk for standardized scoring, coinciding with the completion of the opinion/argument writing unit.

Implementation will be evaluated through post-training surveys to assess teacher satisfaction and effectiveness. Positive outcomes may lead to exploring Brisk for Schools and Districts' paid version, which offers enhanced features including student access via Chromebook extension. The cumulative goal of this ETP aims to streamline the writing evaluation process while maintaining high-quality feedback, ultimately supporting both teacher efficiency and student growth in writing.

Focal Content & Supporting Practices

Standard 5: Assessing Students for Learning

5.3: Reviewing data, both individually and with colleagues, to monitor student learning

Standard 6: Developing as a Professional Educator

6.1: Reflecting on teaching practice in support of student learning

6.3: Collaborating with colleagues and the broader professional community to support teacher and student learning

21st Century/Durable Skills and Applications

- Collaboration - work together as a team to improve a process
- Critical Thinking - investigate a new tool through research and experimentation
- Leadership - opportunity for personal growth
- Metacognition - adapt to a new process for evaluating student writing, with a specific goal of improving efficiency

Measurable Objective(s)

By Spring 2026, 100% of participating 4th and 5th grade teachers will complete two professional development sessions on using Brisk AI for writing evaluation.

Following the training, teachers will demonstrate proficiency in using Brisk by successfully evaluating a minimum of three student writing samples using the platform during the 2025-2026 academic year.

100% of participating teachers will submit a post-survey to help measure increased efficiency in providing student feedback by Spring 2026.

Teachers will successfully upload and implement team-developed rubrics in Brisk for one to three writing assignments during the 2025-2026 academic year.

Formative Assessment(s)

[Pre-survey](#)

Regarding AI tools, I've observed varying levels of receptiveness among our team members. While some staff members demonstrate enthusiasm and openness to these new technologies, others have expressed reservations. This survey will provide valuable data to help me:

1. Measure current comfort levels with AI implementation
2. Identify specific areas of concern
3. Determine appropriate professional development needs
4. Design targeted support strategies for different adoption levels

Summative Assessment(s)

[Post-survey](#)

This survey, along with observations made while facilitating the scoring session will assist to provide:

1. Immediate Feedback
 - Real-time observations during scoring sessions
 - Direct input on rubric upload process and usability
 - Immediate troubleshooting of technical challenges
2. Continuous Assessment
 - Regular opportunities throughout the year for teacher feedback
 - Documentation of best practices and common challenges
 - Ongoing collection of user experiences
3. Professional Development Planning
 - Analysis of feedback to identify training needs
 - Development of targeted support resources
 - Customization of professional learning based on teacher input

Fellowship Description

As the single thread leader for the Operations Organization, Amazon Lab 126 launches innovative devices (such as the Kindle, Echo, and FireTV) at the lowest cost possible to delight their customers and to enable downstream revenue for Amazon. With the support of multiple organizations, they deliver those launches on-time and design the best end-to-end customer centric supply chain solution for each product.

This summer, I am working with the ProductOps team at Amazon Lab 126. ProductOps team members travel around the world following the PDP (Product Development Process) critical milestones, and have employees located in seven different countries.

Process improvement and efficiencies are a 2025 priority. This summer, I will conduct a comprehensive review of the New Product Introduction Review (NPIR) survey process through direct participation in sessions and analysis of current methodologies. By attending weekly NPIR meetings and using AI tools to analyze 2024 Q4 survey results, I will develop recommendations for process optimization and strategies to increase attendance, improve efficiency, and participation rates. A possible add-on project includes the development/implementation of a weekly team newsletter.

The skills and development I hope to gain from this experience are the abilities to enhance my problem solving and analytical skills to suggest at least one improvement to the weekly NPIR meetings for the ProductOps team to implement. I anticipate that my comfort level using AI tools will greatly increase as a result of my project, which is the inspiration behind the development of this ETP. I envision this Fellowship as an opportunity to bring the skills acquired in previous Fellowships along with my educator expertise to offer creative solutions. As a veteran Fellow, I have the privilege of knowing first hand how valuable my insights and suggestions for improvement can be for an organization, and look forward to what I can ultimately offer to the ProductOps team.

The problem solving and active listening skills I am enhancing and applying in this Fellowship are easily transferable to a wide range of careers/areas of focus, including the following:

- Mediator
- Human Resources
- Marketing
- Lawyer/Judge
- Financial Advisor
- Nursing
- Administration
- Project Manager
- Customer Service
- Accountant
- Software Developer
- Mechanical Engineer
- Doctor
- Actuary

Fellowship Connection to School/Classroom

Returning to Amazon's ProductOps team feels like coming home. Last summer's fellowship laid a foundation of trust and accomplishment, with my work now serving as a model for incoming Ignited Fellows. This unique position as a "known entity" has opened doors to deeper exploration and more ambitious challenges in process improvement and AI integration.

What began as tentative steps into AI territory quickly evolved into an exciting discovery of Amazon's vast AI ecosystem. Through internal resources - from wikis to tutorials - I've witnessed firsthand how AI serves not as a replacement for human insight, but as a powerful amplifier of human capability. This revelation has transformed my perspective on AI's role in both corporate and educational settings.

Twenty-six years in the classroom have given me a front-row seat to the evolving challenges of education. The post-COVID landscape has intensified these challenges, with teachers at my school

juggling an ever-expanding set of responsibilities. The breaking point came in June 2025, when our teachers faced the perfect storm: 30 district writing assessments coinciding with narrative report cards, creating an overwhelming burden at the school year's end.

This fellowship represents more than a professional development opportunity; it's a mission to bridge the gap between educational challenges and technological solutions. By leveraging my unique position - straddling both the tech and education worlds - I aim to learn, then teach, practical, AI-enhanced solutions that address real teacher pain points, particularly in writing assessment and feedback delivery.

As education evolves, we must embrace innovative solutions while maintaining the core values of teaching. This fellowship provides a unique opportunity to shape how AI can support, rather than replace, the essential human elements of education. By bringing Amazon's technological expertise to bear on educational challenges, we can help create a more sustainable and fulfilling teaching profession.

Instructional Plan

Pre-Work:

Once back to work in August, 2025, I will meet with my site administrator to schedule professional development time during one of our regularly scheduled weekly staff meetings to introduce Brisk and give teachers some time to experiment with the tool. I'll request to present during the first trimester, to ensure teachers have enough time to use the tool to assess student work prior to the narrative writing unit in the spring of 2026. In the beginning weeks of school, I will send this [pre-survey](#) to the teachers at my school site to gauge their current level of comfort using AI tools to help them work more efficiently. I will use the results of the survey as part of my initial presentation.

1st Professional Development Session (45-60 minutes)

The proposed solution introduces Brisk, an AI-powered writing evaluation tool, through a two-phase professional development program. The initial session will familiarize teachers with Brisk's basic functionality and demonstrate its application in providing targeted writing feedback. Teachers will have hands-on practice using the tool with existing student writing samples. The second session will focus on integrating team-developed rubrics into Brisk for standardized scoring, coinciding with the completion of the opinion/argument writing unit.

Objectives:

- By the end of this first session (Fall 2025), 100% of participating teachers will demonstrate basic proficiency in Brisk AI functionality by successfully logging in, and navigating the platform interface.
 - Teachers will have hands-on practice using the tool with an existing student writing sample.
 - Following this initial training, teachers will demonstrate their ability to provide targeted writing feedback by evaluating a minimum of three student writing samples using the platform during the 2025-2026 academic year.
 - A follow-up session will be scheduled to align with the completion of the narrative writing unit in the spring, where the objective will be to use Brisk to assist with scoring student work by uploading an existing rubric to the platform.
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- Give a quick recap of the Ignited Fellowship experience, with special emphasis placed on current ways Amazon employees are encouraged to explore and use AI tools to increase more efficient workflows. Allow time for a short Q & A session if needed.
 - Share the following [video](#) to introduce Brisk Teaching.
 - Use this [slide deck](#) to guide teachers through the rest of this session, with special emphasis on the following slides:
 - o **Slides 15-16 - Add Brisk to Chrome Extension and Pin to Toolbar.** I'll monitor and provide assistance while participants add the extension.

- o **Slide 21 - Try Giving Feedback.** Share the following [example](#) of a 5th grade informational writing piece. I'm choosing to share the same piece of writing with all teachers to share the various ways that Brisk can evaluate a piece of writing in different ways. Teachers will have 5-7 minutes to try different feedback styles (glow and grow, next steps, rubric criteria,) before coming back to share feedback/questions.
- o **Slide 10 - Inspect Student Writing.** This slide highlights how teachers can use this tool in Brisk to watch how students created their work. 4th and 5th grade students struggle with paraphrasing, so this functionality within Brisk can be essential spotting any copy-pasted sections, offering teachers the ongoing opportunity to discuss the importance of original work.
- o **Slide 22 - Try Inspecting Writing.** Ask teachers to choose one piece of opinion writing to inspect from the previous spring. Teachers hand-scored this writing in June of 2025, and are familiar with both the topic and articles provided to students. Prompt them to choose a piece they may have suspicions around in terms of originality.
 - For reference:
 - Fifth-grade standards (W.5.1) require students to write opinion pieces that include:
 - A clear introduction of a topic or text, a stated opinion, and an organized structure with logically grouped ideas.
 - Logically ordered reasons supported by facts and details.
 - Linking words, phrases, and clauses to connect opinions and reasons.
 - A concluding statement or section related to the opinion
- At this point, share the slide deck with teachers, allowing them to do some further exploration on their own for an additional 7-10 minutes. At the end of the ten minutes, open the discussion for participants to voice their feedback. Feedback can be structured by using prompts such as "likes" and "wonders."
- Closing:
 - o To wrap up, ask participants to become "power users" of Brisk by using the tool to provide targeted writing feedback by evaluating a minimum of three student writing samples during the 2025-2026 academic year.
 - o A follow-up session will be scheduled in May 2026, to align with the completion of the opinion/argument writing unit, where the objective will be to use Brisk to assist with scoring student work by uploading an existing rubric to the platform.

Summative Assessment: [post-survey](#) (at conclusion of 2nd PD session) for teachers

2nd Professional Development Session (45-60 minutes)

Pre-Work:

- One week prior to the session, send reminder email to participants to bring their completed opinion/argument essays, as we will be uploading the opinion/argument essay rubric into Brisk, to assist with scoring student work.

Objectives:

- 100% of participating teachers will report increased efficiency in providing student feedback as measured by post-implementation surveys by Spring 2026.
- Teachers will successfully upload and implement team-developed rubrics in Brisk for one to three writing assignments during the 2025-2026 academic year.
- Share agenda ([sample](#))
- Begin the session by meeting in mixed level teams to share what pieces of writing teachers assessed using Brisk, and share takeaways. What worked well? What was a challenge?
- Moving on to the scoring session, share the following [video](#) to show teachers how to upload and use the opinion/argument [rubric](#) into Brisk.

- After the facilitator confirms all teachers were able to successfully upload the rubric, move into a work session of 45 minutes, in which teachers will use the time to score their opinion/argument essays using Brisk. This should be a collaborative session, where teachers work together in grade level teams to help and support each other through the process. As teachers score, the facilitator will visit teams to check in and address any questions/roadblocks. Ask questions to gauge how individual teachers would assess this tool, and aim to clear any blockers that may arise. For any participants who wrap up early, encourage them to upload another existing rubric of their choice, to test out the feature on a different piece of student writing.
- At the end of the 45 minute scoring session, take a few minutes to debrief as a whole group. What worked well? What was a challenge?
- Answer any final questions, and in an effort to best plan next steps, ask participants to complete the follow-up [survey](#) before leaving the meeting.

Materials

Pre-Survey:

Teacher AI Readiness Survey

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1brQFVIHY5oRcLXC3uQy8FBygQJ6g-WXDl0wr0fUbvLI/copy>

Post-Survey:

Using Brisk to Assist With Scoring Student Writing

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1BR_jhG02pHZtzuRkPq2O2TX_s9PWFKIpUFnwTIrWCEI/copy

Video - Getting Started with Brisk Teaching:

<https://www.briskteaching.com/getting-started-with-brisk-teaching>

Slide Deck - Brisk Teaching Professional Development:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1gpfPz3XexlsayJv6hHCxxIpNfXJLG5QHYG42TmrLD9Q/edit?usp=sharing>

Student Example of Informational Writing:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cx3A1um9yiekJkxk0RA4Yyqulj0WG8VJMgoz9d3cqh8/edit?usp=sharing>

 Brisk Bites 25- Rubric Criteria Feedback Generator

Argument/Opinion Rubric:

 Argument Essay Rubric

Sample Agenda for 2nd Professional Development Session:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yn6qDW_m3ELp8HaDP0SEV5iebj5ktMpSHEZh2pAWRVM/edit?usp=sharing

References

<https://www.briskteaching.com/?r=0>

Free AI tools for teachers and educators – brisk teaching. Free AI Tools for Teachers and Educators – Brisk Teaching. (n.d.). <https://www.briskteaching.com/?r=0>

Keywords

AI Tools for Teachers, Brisk, Writing Feedback