

Personalization at Scale: Technology Integration to Drive Common Core Writing

Abstract

New Visions for Public Schools, in partnership with the New York City Department of Education, proposes a four-year i3 development grant that will leverage technology to support writing instruction that is personalized to student need and aligned with the Common Core State Standards (*Absolute Priority #3*). Through our *Personalization at Scale* project, we will support high school teachers in high-poverty urban classrooms in establishing a low cost “technology infrastructure” and adopting digital tools to improve their workflow in distributing, collecting and grading assignments. We hypothesize that digital course management and rubric-aligned grading tools built in the Google Apps for Education (GAFE) environment -- New Visions’ *Doctopus* and *Goobric* with *Google Classroom* -- will facilitate teacher feedback on student work and support the writing and revision process necessary to improving literacy skills.

Teachers in 10 public high schools who use New Visions’ Global History and English Language Arts curricula will receive intensive training in this technology and related pedagogy, and their outcomes will be compared against teachers in 10 schools using the same curricula without intentional technology integration. We will examine whether moving writing workflow to a cloud-based environment will increase the number of writing tasks assigned by teachers; the frequency with which tasks are differentiated; and the amount and timeliness of teacher feedback on student writing. With these changes in teacher behavior, we will expect to see greater student writing and revision and improved writing scores on state-mandated exit exams. This project will directly impact 5,000 students. Since our tools run on Google’s free infrastructure and our curricula is open source, once piloted and proven, this approach can scale at radically low costs to schools.