



Eastern Illinois Writing Project Fall 2014 Newsletter

<http://castle.ciu.edu/~easternnwp/>

Sixth Annual Institute Day October 17, 2014



On October 17, teachers from various grade levels and disciplines gathered in the Doudna Fine Arts Center to attend the Eastern Illinois Writing Project and The Teaching with Primary Source Project at EIU Institute Day. This free Institute Day ran from 8:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. and

included an amazing plenary session, a creative reading at our luncheon, and choices of teacher-driven presentations and workshops that allowed both attendees and presenters to share effective ideas and confer with one another. All of these events emphasized our belief that the best teachers of teachers are other teachers. Participants earned up to 5 Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDUs) toward teacher certification renewal. Many EIU students attended, as well!

Nancy Steineke opened our Institute Day with a talk and workshop entitled “Practical Strategies for

Engaging Students in Reading and Writing Nonfiction.”

Steneke addressed issues teachers and prospective teachers face daily. As Steineke explained, for many teachers, the pressure is mounting: meeting Common Core Standards, preparing for PARCC, and working towards a “distinguished” rating on the Danielson teacher evaluation rubric. Despite these challenges, teachers can STILL use best practice teaching as they engage their students in content area study. In her plenary session, Nancy Steineke provided a practical exploration of strategies that incorporate collaboration as students hone the skills of reading and writing nonfiction.

After an extended run teaching English at Victor J. Andrew High School in Tinley Park, Ill., Steineke now consults nationally as a keynote speaker, workshop presenter, and literacy coach for teachers. She specializes in content-area literacy, nonfiction writing, purposeful close reading, alternative assessment, and student engagement. Using her experiences in teaching English, history, and vocational education, Steineke keeps the focus on manageable strategies that help teachers get the job done in the way that best benefits students

A published author and accomplished teacher, Steineke has been featured in classroom videos for Best Practice and Comprehension and Collaboration. Her groundbreaking work with book clubs and student led discussion groups is captured in her books *Assessment Live!* and *Reading and Writing Together*. She also collaborates frequently with

Harvey “Smokey” Daniels. Together they have co-authored *Mini-Lessons for Literature Circles, Texts and Lessons for Content Area Reading*, and *Texts and Lessons for Literature*. Her newest book is *Teaching the Social Skills of Academic Interaction*.

Steineke presents annually at the National Council of Teachers of English, International Reading Association, and various state conferences. She is also an Illinois Writing Project leader. Along with Daniels, she has organized and led over 50 multi-day residential institutes for teachers in locations around the U.S.

Our Institute Day also included engaging breakout sessions at 10:00 and 11:00. The following outlines the topics available for our more than 120 participants:

“Resources for Primary Sources and Informational Texts” with Kristin Runyon:

Common Core Standards requires the inclusion of primary sources and informational texts in all literacy standards across the curriculum. These presentation will provide a multitude of resources available online for finding primary sources and informational texts, especially current news and those available at different reading levels. In addition, the presentation will include ideas for how to utilize these in the classroom.

“Using Google Tools” with Amber Laquet:

According to Illinois’ Common Core Standards, educators in every discipline at every grade level must implement more technology into the way they teach reading and writing.

Google offers several effective tools for writing across the curriculum. Laquet will demonstrate the use of these tools that are applicable in variety of subject areas. Google Docs (Drive), Google Books, Google Calendar, and Google+ are some of the tools that will be explored in a workshop format.

“Cubing: Simplifying Complex Thinking” with Kaleigh McRoberts:

Cubing is a thinking activity promoted by Mark Forger, author of *MAX Teaching with Reading and Writing*. The activity walks students through six modes of thinking about a topic. This session will demonstrate implementation of this activity and give you time to develop implementation methods



for your own classroom.

“Teaching Narrative Writing with Primary Sources” with Rebecca Lawson:

Do you believe that a picture is worth a thousand words? If you have seen some of the of the photos that The Library of Congress has to share, you would agree with that familiar statement. Using photos from The Library of Congress is a great way to help inspire students to write fictional narratives. Participants will receive information on The Library of Congress photo resources and be involved in a hands-on writing experience centered on a lesson tied to *Black Boy* by Richard Wright.

“PBS LearningMedia” with Ke’An

Armstrong: This presentation will introduce PBS LearningMedia, your destination for direct access to thousands of classroom-ready, curriculum-targeted digital resources. PBS LearningMedia builds on the strength of public media and is designed to improve teacher effectiveness and student achievement. Resources are aligned to Common Core and national standards and include videos and interactives, as well as audio, documents, and in-depth lesson plans. You can browse by standards, grade level, subject area, and special collections. You can also favorite, and share resources with your class and colleagues through folders and social media. Best of all, PBS LearningMedia’s basic service is free for PreK-12

educators.

“Playing With Wix to Upgrade Your Classroom” with Sue Fuller: Do you need to upgrade – or create your first – website? Come play around in WIX! In this hands-on session we will begin to create a free website, add photos, link to your Google homework calendar, and more. We’ll also look at Tagxedo, where you can create “word clouds with style.”

“Start with Observations, It Just Makes Sense! Observation & Inquiry Through Descriptive Writing & Art” with Gena McDonald: This session starts with detailed observations, classification using science terms, drawing and writing to learn. Extensions include reading, researching and writing.

“Music, Moods, and Writing” with April Noel: This session will walk you through a lesson that is written for 3rd-5th grade general music class, but can be adapted for other classes as well. We’ll explore music and mood, make instrument "characters," and put together a short story (if time allows).

“The FUNdamentals of CCSS English!” with Stephanie Uebinger and Dannette Williamson: The Effingham High School English Language Arts Professional Learning Community has developed multiple approaches in implementing Common Core State Standards units in the high school English Classroom. Sample resources will be provided. Questions and discussion welcome!

“The Class Newsletter: Teaching Basic Researching, Interviewing and Writing to Produce a Class Newspaper ” with Sally Renaud: This session walks you through a unit that teaches research, interviewing and writing/editing to produce a class newspaper or newsletter of your students’ work and gives them a souvenir of their experiences.



Creative Writing Reading and Workshop with TJ Martinson

Our Institute Day ended with a catered luncheon and a marvelous reading and discussion. Eastern Illinois University English graduate candidate TJ Martinson read a chapter from his upcoming novel, *Fair, We Go* (The Milo Press, Feb. 2015). *Fair, We Go* is the story of four Navy sailors during the Second American Civil War. Stationed in a small, South American town, they are abandoned by their ship and are

left with only themselves and the pasts they have tried to escape.

The Graduate Certificate in the Teaching of Writing at EIU



This certificate is available to any already certified teacher across the curriculum and grade levels, and builds on the work completed during the EIWP Summer Institute. To meet the requirements for the certificate you must complete only 18 hours of graduate work in the Teaching of Writing. The only six hours required for this certificate are those earned during the summer institute, ENG 5585.

This certificate (which appears on transcripts) professionally recognizes the accomplishment of completing 18 hours in the teaching of writing. These courses that you complete can also be applied toward an MA in English or other discipline. The

following outlines the current requirements for the graduate certificate:

All students must complete the following **six-credit** course:

- ENG 5585 Writing Project for K-12 Teachers**

Students should choose at least **four** of the following **three-credit** courses:

- ENG 4760 Studies in Professional Writing*
- ENG 4801 Integrating the English Language Arts
- ENG 4906 Problems in the Teaching of English*
- ENG 5007 Composition Theory and Pedagogy
- ENG 5011 Studies in Composition and Rhetoric*
- ENG 5091 Studies in Language, Linguistics, and Literacy*

*These courses may be repeated.

** Students must complete one year of teaching before applying for English 5585.

Good News NWP SEED Grant Approved

We are pleased to inform you that the Eastern Illinois Writing Project has been awarded \$20,000 of federal funds over two years for your site's 2014-2016 SEED Teacher Leadership Development Grant proposal. The purpose of this grant is to expand and develop teacher leadership to improve the teaching of writing and learning in the nation's schools. The goal of this funding is to provide new learning opportunities for a minimum of 20 teacher leaders in your service area over the course of the two-year grant. These teacher leaders can be both new fellows and existing teacher leaders participating in programs that expand their capacities and support their effectiveness.

This grant will support our Summer Institutes in 2015 and 2016, our Institute Days in 2014 and 2015, and a possible Middle School Creative Writing Camp!

2015 EIWP Summer Institute

Registration is now open for the 2015 EIWP Summer Institute! Local educators from all disciplines in grades K-16 are invited to apply for the Summer Institute to be held June 15 through July 9, 2015, on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Ill.

The institute provides teachers across the curriculum with opportunities to improve student writing and learning, extend uses of writing in all disciplines and provide schools with an effective in-service model. They will also learn to identify, celebrate, and enhance the professional role of successful classroom teachers, and apply a teacher-centered model to implement these goals.

Some of the daily and weekly activities that teachers will participate in include writing activities for personal and professional growth, the sharing teaching ideas, reading and research, small and large group discussions, and coaching sessions with directors and teaching consultants. They will also collaborate on writing projects and build a community of learners and professionals.

For more information or to apply, visit www.eiu.edu/easternnwp and click on EIWP Summer Institute. The deadline is May 15, 2015.



**Books
Worth
Reading**

Gaboldon, Diana. *Outlander*. Book I

The year is 1945. Claire Randall, a former combat nurse, is just back from the war and reunited with her husband on a second honeymoon when she walks through a standing stone in one of the ancient circles that dot the British Isles. Suddenly she is a Sassenach—an “outlander”—in a Scotland torn by war and raiding border clans in the year of Our Lord...1743.