

Eastern Illinois Writing Project Summer 2014 Newsletter The Eastern Illinois Writing Project

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EIWP Hosts 2014 Summer Institute



Like their students, teachers across the country look forward to their summer vacation. This summer, ten of those teachers committed some of their time to continue learning during the Eastern Illinois Writing Project Summer Institute, one of at least 200 National Writing Project summer institutes this year. All of our teachers shared amazing teaching demonstrations this summer. Leslie Ellis asked us to complete a Mind Map in response to *Quiet Bunny's Many Colors* by Lisa McCue. Tiffany Gould asked us to describe our room as explicitly as does Shel Silverstein to highlight "The Importance of Details". Frank Jenkins taught us how to use parody as a tool to "Take Another Look at the Killing of Julius Caesar." Gina Koester's "Introduction to Multiple Paragraph Writing" taught us how high expectations are in the third-grade

classroom. Kelly Rice demonstrated multiple ways to address "Close Reading and Writing." Jim Sledge taught us how to address Shakespearean English (and fence). Sara Stuehm's "Love Letters and Celebrity Character 1Wife Swap" drew on popular culture to help students synthesize their reading.

Amy Westjohn helped us dive into a mystery unit, "Mystery Genre Mr. Bear Mystery." And Michael Williams took us through the writing process with his Animal Paragraph Lesson Plan. Teachers participated in writing activities for personal and professional growth, shared teaching ideas, and engaged in reading and research throughout the intense summer. They will also collaborated on writing projects and became part of a community of learners and professionals. We welcome them all as teaching consultants, part of the EIWP and NWP communities.

The National Writing Project has been proven effective by outside evaluators and has become a model for improving classroom instruction in other academic fields. The NWP Legacy Study shows that 98 percent of NWP summer institute participants remain in education until they retire, and 70 percent stay in the classroom throughout their careers. A second study performed by the NWP examined nine different schools and compared the writing of students studying under NWP teachers and students studying under non-NWP teachers. The study looked at seven different aspects of student writing: content, structure, stance, sentence fluency, diction, conventions, and holistic score. In every instance, the students studying under NWP teachers outscored the non-NWP taught students. As Judy Buchanan, NWP Deputy Director explains, "In so many ways, educators continue to forge partnerships and engage one another during the summer months. Through these opportunities, teachers are better equipped to support their colleagues and to help their students excel in writing across all disciplines."

Summer Institute Presenters Rock!



Sue sharing some great tools!

Co-director Sue Fuller taught us about some great tools at our technology luncheons, including Popplet, an excellent tool to create mind-maps and diagrams; Tagxedo, a word cloud on steroids; a QR Code generator; and Wix, an amazing free website creator. She also helped us apply writing to learn strategies. Amber taught us all about Google Apps, as well.



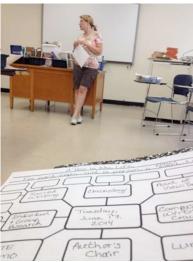
Amber preparing for presentations and creative writing.

Carol Smith started us off with a model chronology.



Carol and her "cousin" introduce the chronology.

And Kristin taught us about various primary source sites.



Kristin makes learning fun.

Our writing crawls also inspired some amazing writing from this year's teachers. Here are a few highlights:

Charleston Square Crawl





Becky sharing her work.

Lincoln Log Cabin



Sullivan Cemetery



Sixth Annual Institute Day October 17, 2014



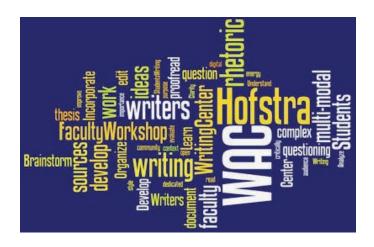
This fall, teachers will gather in the Doudna Fine Arts Center on the campus of Eastern Illinois University to attend the Eastern Illinois Writing Project and The Teaching with Primary Source Project at EIU Institute Day. This free Institute Day runs from 8:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. and includes teacher-driven presentations and workshops that allow both attendees and presenters to share effective ideas and confer with one another, emphasizing our belief that the best teachers of teachers are other teachers. Participants may earn up to 5 Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDUs) toward teacher certification renewal. Students are welcome to attend, as well!

The 2014 Institute Day will focus on collaborative reading and writing in multiple disciplines, including math, science, history, social studies, and technical subjects. Teachers from across disciplines and grade levels will share their teaching ideas in multiple breakout sessions, maintaining a teachers teaching teachers model to creatively meet the Common Core Standards.

To highlight this interdisciplinarity across grade levels, we are also pleased to announce our keynote speaker: Nancy Steineke!

Nancy Steineke consults nationally as a keynote speaker, workshop presenter, and literacy coach for middle and high school 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, Nancy keeps the focus on manageable strategies that help teachers get the job done in the way that best benefits students. Participants regularly praise her "practicality," "concrete ideas," and "energetic style." A published author and accomplished teacher, Nancy 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. Nancy also collaborates frequently with Harvey "Smokey" Daniels. Together they have coauthored 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.

Nancy 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 Harvey Daniels, Nancy has organized and led over 50 multi-day residential institutes for teachers in locations around the US.



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!



Books Worth Reading

Chevalier, Tracy. Remarkable Creatures: A voyage of discovery, two remarkable women, and an extraordinary time and place.

Paktake, Allison. *The Traitor's Wife*: A riveting historical novel about Peggy Shippen Arnold, the cunning wife of Benedict Arnold and mastermind behind America's most infamous act of treason.

Kaaberbol, Leen. *The Boy in the Suitcase*: "Fans of Nordic crime fiction, rejoice: Something is rotten in Denmark. But never fear, Red Cross nurse Nina Borg is on the case.... A wild ride."—*New York Post*

Stevenson, D. E. *Miss Buncle's Book*: When Miss Buncle's account runs dry, she decides to write a novel, drawing inspiration from her fellow residents of Silverstream, the little English village she knows inside and out.