



Eastern Illinois Writing Project Fall 2013 Newsletter

The Eastern Illinois Writing Project

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

Institute Day 2013



The 5th annual Institute Day was held recently on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. More than 120 local educators took part in the program titled “Teaching with Primary Sources,

Literacy, Diversity, and the Common Core Standards Across the Curriculum.”

The teachers, administrators and college students in attendance heard from two keynote speakers – Dr. Dana Humphrey of the St. Louis Holocaust Museum and Dr. Adrienne Dixson from the University of Illinois.

Dana Humphrey presented “Connecting Primary Sources and the Common Core State Standards to Holocaust Education.” As educators begin to implement the Common Core State Standards in their curriculums and daily lessons, many question how they will be able to do so effectively and at the same time meet the mandate to teach the Holocaust. This session showed teachers how the Standards actually support effective Holocaust education pedagogy and the use of primary source documents.



Adrienne Dixson presented “Can the Common Core be Culturally Relevant?: Culturally Relevant Pedagogy, Language Arts and the Common Core.”

She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Education Policy, Organization and Leadership at University of Illinois. Her primary research interest focuses on educational equity.

The event also featured breakout sessions on close reading, teaching the Holocaust, teaching journalism writing skills, PBS LearningMedia, differentiated instruction for ELA teachers, integrating social studies and English language arts, writing to learn, and teaching outside the classroom. The sessions were led by teachers from area school districts who had previously completed the Eastern Illinois Writing Project Summer Institute. A big thank you goes out to our presenters:

Ke’An Armstrong
Leslie Banks
Al Church
Suzanne Fuller
Duane Huffman
Amber Laquet
Rebecca Lawson
Misty Mapes
Sally Renaud
Kristin Runyon
Carol Smith

“Facilitated by a network of teacher leaders across grade levels and disciplines, these breakout sessions built on our belief that the best teachers of teachers are other teachers, providing multiple ways to address the challenges of today’s Common Core Standards-driven classroom.”

The schools represented at the Institute Day were: Arcola Elementary School, Arcola Jr./Sr. High School, Arthur/Lovington High School, Bluford Grade School, Charleston High School, Charleston Middle School, Cumberland High School, Cumberland Middle School, East Prairie Middle School, Eastern Illinois University, Heritage High School, Martinsville Elementary School, Martinsville High School, Mattoon High School, Mattoon Middle School, Moulton Middle School, Neoga Elementary School, Oakland High School, Paris Cooperative High School, Rantoul Township High School, St. Anthony Grade School, St. Anthony High School, St. Mary School,

Sullivan High School, Teutopolis High School, Tolono Junior High School, Windsor Elementary School, and Windsor Jr./Sr. High School.

The Institute Day was presented by the Eastern Illinois Writing Project and Teaching with Primary Sources EIU. For more information on the projects, visit www.eiu.edu/~easternnwp and www.eiu.edu/~eiutps.

Professional Development in the Martinsville Schools: Language Arts Common Core



The EIWP Professional Development Program in the Martinsville Schools builds on the district’s assets: a strong commitment to authentic literacy instruction and new technology resources with which to work. Because Illinois has adopted the Common Core Standards, which promote more writing in every discipline, helping teachers of all subject areas teach writing and reading across the curriculum and across grade levels has become more important than ever before.

The emphasis on literacy instruction in social studies, the sciences, technology, and, of course, k-12 English language arts presents a particular need and opportunity for EIWP and the Martinsville Schools. With help from our teacher leaders, the Martinsville teacher will be more able to navigate changes from the Illinois State Standards to the new Common Core.

The program plan currently includes six in-service half day writing to learn and writing and reading across the curriculum workshops; a full-day Institute Day on the campus of Eastern Illinois University; professional development reading groups focused on *Content Area Writing: Every Teachers’ Guide*, *Digital Writing Matters*, and works focused on the writing and

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:

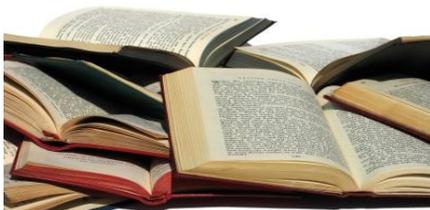
- ENG 4760 Studies in Professional Writing*
- ENG 4801 Integrating the English Language Arts
- ENG 4906 Problems in the Teaching of English*
- ENG 5007 Composition Theory and Pedagogy
- ENG 5011 Studies in Composition and Rhetoric*
- ENG 5091 Studies in Language, Linguistics, and Literacy*

*These courses may be repeated.

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

and her sister, Liz, is fifteen when their artistic mother, Charlotte, a woman who “found something wrong with every place she ever lived,” takes off to find herself, leaving her girls enough money to last a month or two. When Bean returns from school one day and sees a police car outside the house, she and Liz decide to take the bus to Virginia, where their Uncle Tinsley lives in the decaying mansion that’s been in Charlotte’s family for generations.

An impetuous optimist, Bean soon discovers who her father was, and hears many stories about why their mother left Virginia in the first place. Because money is tight, Liz and Bean start babysitting and doing office work for Jerry Maddox, foreman of the mill in town—a big man who bullies his workers, his tenants, his children, and his wife. Bean adores her whip-smart older sister—inventor of word games, reader of Edgar Allan Poe, nonconformist. But when school starts in the fall, it’s Bean who easily adjusts and makes friends, and Liz who becomes increasingly withdrawn. And then something happens to Liz. Jeannette Walls, supremely alert to abuse of adult power, has written a deeply moving novel about triumph over adversity and about people who find a way to love each other and the world, despite its flaws and injustices.



Books Worth Reading

The Silver Star

by Jeannette Walls

In *The Silver Star*, Jeannette Walls has written a heartbreaking and redemptive novel about an intrepid girl who challenges the injustice of the adult world—a triumph of imagination and storytelling. It is 1970 in a small town in California. “Bean” Holladay is twelve