



Eastern Illinois Writing Project Spring 2016 Newsletter

The Eastern Illinois Writing Project
<http://castle.eiu.edu/~easternnwp/>



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER INSTITUTE 2016

<https://castle.eiu.edu/easternnwp/machform/view.php?id=1>

This summer, the EIWP Summer Institute is receiving a facelift. The EIWP will be launching their first ever hybrid version of the Summer Institute. EIWP Director, Robin Murray, explains “EIWP is finding it difficult to meet the needs of teachers living in counties more than an hour away from Charleston. This hybrid version of the ISI

will open up literacy-across-the curriculum opportunities to teachers around the region. Completing some course work on line will help busy teachers fulfill Graduate Certificate and program requirements while maintaining the necessary face-to-face interaction that facilitates effective teaching while building a community of teacher professionals.” This year, the hybrid version of the Summer Institute will connect online June 15, 16, 20, 21, 22. In addition, they will meet in person on Eastern’s campus from 10 – 3:30 June 13, 14, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30 and July 5, 6,7.



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.



In addition, educators will receive the added benefit of:

1. 6 hours of graduate tuition waived (fees not included)
2. \$400.00 Stipend for SI and continued growth as a teacher leader
3. Becoming part of a professional community of teachers

The Eastern Illinois Writing Project follows the National Writing Project principles to facilitate teaching and learning in all of our programs. We believe that the best teachers of teachers are other teachers and that the best teachers of writing are writers themselves.

Feedback from Past ISI Attendees

Casey Crowhurst

About the experience:

“While attending the SI, I was able to create and share personal writing in a comfortable atmosphere of my peers. Teachers rarely take the time to write, and I loved the ability to create and share with others. Since most attendees are teachers, I was able to connect with professionals from a variety of districts across Central Illinois. Along with writing, we also shared and modeled some of our favorite lesson plans. The SI has allowed me to bring back different strategies, ideas and lesson plans that were shared during the summer. I've implemented some of these in my classroom.”



Recommendation:

“If you're contemplating the possibility of attending the institute, just go for it. I needed something engaging to do during the summer, and I loved the experience. The Institute is open to teachers of any subject and grade level, which opened my mind to perspectives on writing instruction I hadn't considered. Every member had something to add to the program. It's also free, and as an English M.A. candidate, worth six credit

hours. After the summer institute, I decided EIU was where I wanted to continue my English studies.”



Carol Smith

About the Experience:

“I have been with the institute since the EIWP started. I was a coach for several years. Now I help with planning and do a presentation about chronologies each year. I am retired, but I used many lessons from both the EiWP and Illinois State's Writing Project in my classes. My students benefitted greatly from lessons I learned through the Writing Projects. The summer institutes changed my teaching strategies and made me a much better creative writing teacher. My students experienced using many different genres to express themselves creatively.”

Recommendation:

“I already recommend the institute to all English teachers I meet. My other advice is that those considering becoming a fellow should do it. "Don't be intimidated by the syllabus. You will soon become absorbed in all you are learning and in the camaraderie that permeates the institute. The research you do is of your own choosing, and you will leave the institute with many new lessons your students will enjoy!”

Traci Becker

About the experience:

“My experience during the summer institute was professionally reinvigorating. It provided me with an opportunity to meet myself again as a writer, and as a teacher through learning from other teachers and their exciting curriculum ideas. I have been able to add many of the ideas from the summer institute into my classroom. Additionally, creating a new network of friends and professionals to share ideas with has been greatly beneficial.”

Recommendation:

“This is one of the best teaching courses I have every taken. It is practical immediately to my classroom. I would recommend it to all teachers, of all subject areas and age groups. There is nowhere that you can go for such a short time that produces such great results.”

Don't wait! Apply to the summer institute today to secure your spot in this educationally rewarding Summer Institute at Eastern Illinois University.

<https://castle.eiu.edu/easternnwp/machform/view.php?id=1>



SAVE THE DATE!

Eighth Annual Fall Institute Day

October 14, 2016



This year's conference will focus on alternative approaches to teaching argument across disciplines, including math, science, history, social studies, and technical subjects. Teachers from across disciplines and grade levels will share their teaching ideas in two breakout sessions with a choice of teacher-driven presentations and workshops, maintaining a teachers teaching teachers model to creatively meet the Common Core Standards. Teachers in attendance will also earn 5 CPDHs!



In addition to the teacher-driven presentations and workshops, EIU teacher-researchers Dr. Tim Taylor and Dr. Fern Kory will deliver the keynote address titled "Beyond Pro vs Con: Motivating Productive Arguments." Their workshop and discussion

will highlight new ways of approaching argument. Dr. Fern Kory explains why the information presented at the Fall Institute Day will be so beneficial: "As Dominic Delli Carpini points out, too many students seem to believe that "finding and relaying information is the goal" of academic research. As teachers, one of our overarching goals is to convince students that "real research...is motivated by a sincere need to learn more about a topic so as to speak or write credibly about it, and to draw substantive and reasonable conclusions." This can be a challenge in a world in which multifaceted issues are often seen through a limiting pro-con lens. In this interactive presentation, we will share recent research on student motivation as the starting point for a collaborative exploration of strategies for productively engaging students in the process of research, the construction of arguments, and the critical task of moving beyond either-or thinking."

As always, the Fall Institute Day is free and open to all. While current educators at all levels and disciplines are strongly encouraged to register for this beneficial conference, anyone with an interest in education and writing would profit from this information. Go to the following link to register for this informative conference.
<https://castle.eiu.edu/easternnwp/machform/view.php?id=1232>

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

Proposals for the Pathways Grant and Challenge Grant are Underway

It is no secret that institutions of higher education are hurting for funding right now with the current budget crisis in Illinois which is why obtaining funding from other sources is incredibly important. We are in the process of completing drafts of proposals to two grants.

The first grant we are applying to is the National Writing Project's Pathways to leadership grant. The purposes of this grant is to "support a network of diverse local writing project sites imagining and designing new program models that expand NWP communities of practice in order to increase leadership opportunities for teachers otherwise not served by local writing project sites." While EIWP continues to advocate for literacy across grade levels and disciplines, we continue to struggle attracting educators in fields such as science, mathematics, and foreign language to name a few. Similarly, we find it difficult to attract a more diverse sample of educators across Illinois to utilize the resources we provide—namely the Summer Institute. Our proposal identifies how we intend to reinvent our program in order combat these difficulties. Deadline for application is February 17, 2016.

The second grant EIWP has already applied for is the Challenge grant. This grant is provided by the LNRG and purposes to assist educators who are “expand[ing] access to rich creative opportunities for the young people they work with and committed to sharing their solutions and lessons learned with educators across the country.” For this grant, we are submitting a proposal for an innovative project that will take place in the Marshall, Illinois schools. This program will engage students in a multi-tiered process that facilitates growth and learning while encouraging them to follow their interests.

Keep an eye out for further updates on the status of these two proposals.

Books Worth Reading

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent

By Julia Alvarez

Violent Ends

By various authors

Flawed

By Kate Avelynn

Pope Joan

By Donna Woolfolk Cross

S

By Doug Dorst and J.J. Abrams

The Ice Garden

By Moira Crone

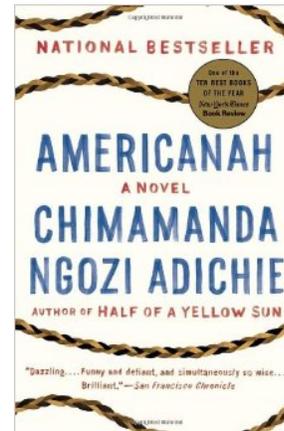
The Not Yet

By Moira Crone

Son

By Lois Lowry

SPOTLIGHT ON A BOOK:



Americanah

By Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Mike Peed with *The New York Times* describes *Americanah* as “...witheringly trenchant and hugely empathetic, both worldly and geographically precise, a novel that holds the discomfiting realities of our times fearlessly before us. It never feels false.” Taken from the back cover: “Ifemelu and Obinze are young and in love when they depart military-ruled Nigeria for the West. Beautiful, self-assured Ifemelu heads for America, where despite her academic success she is forced to grapple with what it means to be black for the first time. Quiet, thoughtful Obinze had hoped to join her, but with post-9/11 America closed to him, he instead plunges into a dangerous, undocumented life in London.”

Uncomfortable to read at times, Adichie’s grappling with race, identity and belonging in *Americanah* provides insight into issues occurring now and opens the doors to a conversation about race in America that needs to happen.