



**Eastern Illinois
Writing Project
Summer 2014 Newsletter**
The Eastern Illinois Writing Project
www.eiu.edu/easternnwp
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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.

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



Amber preparing for presentations and creative writing.



Carol Smith started us off with a model chronology.



Carol and her "cousin" introduce the chronology.

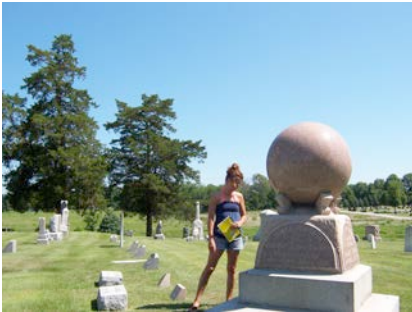


Becky sharing her work.

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 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*.

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.

