7th Annual Intensive Summer Writing Institute

Come Write With Us

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June 7-July 1, 1999

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Come write with the best of the best West Tennessee teachers this summer, June 7-July 1, 1999, in the 7th annual intensive summer writing institute of the West Tennessee Writing Project. WTWP welcomes applications from all teachers, K-12, from all subject matter areas.

"I now realize the importance of my writing with my students and sharing with them what I am writing. It does not matter if everything I write is good or not, as long as I am writing and my students see me writing. Journals will be a major tool for beginning a writing community among my students," Pat Johnson, Jackson Trinity Christian Academy, history and English teacher.

In the summer institute, teachers write, meet with other institute teachers in writing-response groups, teach each other their best teaching practices, and read in texts of writing theory and practice. Teachers learn new strategies for greater student involvement in reading and more intentional student commitment to a variety of writing tasks for a variety of purposes.

"Prior to taking this class, my life had not been bursting with writing scenarios. . . I now see all the wide-opened possibilities for my next bunch of first-graders. I feel as though my window has now been raised to let in those opportunities. I want to teach and encourage various types of writing among my students," Jenny DeLoach, Humboldt East End Elementary, first grade teacher.

The WTWP annual intensive summer writing institute is for selected west Tennessee teachers, all subject matter areas, K-12. The institute is offered as English 700-701 for six hours of graduate credit. These six hours may be used for re-certification and may count for "30 hours above" the masters. Grants from the National Writing Project and UT Martin defray cost of tuition.

"I have been encouraged rather than criticized. I've been told, 'You are a writer.' I previously have been told that, 'You are a singer, you are a teacher, you are a wife and mother,' but never before have I been told that, 'you are writer.' That's a good feeling! Not only have I been told that I am a writer, but I've been taught how to make my students writers as well," Pam Sliger, Weakley County School System, elementary music teacher.

The goals of the West Tennessee Writing Project are to improve writing and writing instruction in West Tennessee schools, K-12. WTWP operates on the principles that the best teacher of a teacher is
another teacher; teachers who teach writing must be writers themselves; writing improves as writing instruction improves.

"For me, WTWP was a chance to be a student again. I love going to school, and it had been almost two years since I had been the student in someone's classroom. It's vital to be on the other side of that big desk regularly. . . . From the very first day of 'real' class, we felt as if we were already a community," Jennifer Rawls, University School of Jackson 10th and 12th grade English teacher.

The summer writing institute meets Monday-Thursday for four weeks with an additional all-day orientation immersion the first Saturday in May. If you would like to apply to be part of the 1999 intensive summer writing institute June 7-July 1, 1999 on the UT Martin campus, complete the form on the back and mail to WTWP.

The West Tennessee Writing Project was established in the Department of English at UT Martin in March 1993 as an affiliate site of the National Writing Project, University of California, Berkeley. Located in the Department of English at UT Martin, WTWP is supported by grants from NWP with matching funds from The University of Tennessee at Martin.

This project is funded by:

The National Writing Project

The University of Tennessee Martin

http://www.utm.edu/~wtwp/98sibroc.htm