



2019 YWP

Invitational

Summer Institute

Department of English

The Yellowstone Writing Project Invitational Summer Institute, which will be held M-F June 18 – June 27, 2019, with a required Pre-institute Workshop on May 4, 2019, is an intensive professional experience through which participating teachers immerse themselves in their own writing and in the study of writing instruction. Successful teachers from throughout the Yellowstone Region come together for two weeks on the campus of Montana State University to explore strategies for teaching students at all grade levels to write well and for enhancing student learning in general. Teachers work on their own writing, study current research and theory, share teaching strategies, and learn about writing and teaching.

The National Writing Project recognizes the primary importance of teacher knowledge, expertise, and leadership. The NWP believes that access to high quality educational experiences is a basic right of all learners and a cornerstone of equity. Essential components of NWP philosophy include the beliefs that:

- Improving writing is crucial to learning in all subject areas, not just English
- Reading and writing are reinforcing literacy skills and need to be taught together
- Learning to write requires frequent supportive practice
- Students have diverse abilities and instructional needs, and so teachers must use multiple strategies to improve students' writing
- Effective writing instruction pays attention to both the product and the process of writing

Current research shows that students taught by teachers associated with the National Writing Project do better in all observed categories than students taught by teachers who are not.

Teachers who participate in the Summer Institute have the option to **earn up to six graduate credit hours** through Montana State University's Department of English. In addition, they also have opportunities to consult with schools in the Yellowstone Region and to engage in a variety of regional and national professional development activities. They become part of a vibrant community of committed and supportive educators from throughout the Yellowstone Region and also have opportunities to interact with educators on a national level.

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Central activities in the Summer Institute include:

Writing Groups

Summer Institute participants meet regularly in groups of three or four to share and discuss their own writing. The writing groups provide participants with sustained attention to their writing in a community of peers; they provide ample opportunity for reflection on the teacher's experiences as writers.

Inquiry Groups

Summer Institute participants also meet regularly in study groups to engage in sustained inquiry into a selected topic related to writing and teaching. Inquiry groups offer teachers the opportunity for focused discussion of the topics and readings selected for the whole group and brought to the group by guest speakers. The work of the inquiry groups culminates in a collaborative inquiry project on the group's chosen topic that is presented to the entire summer institute.

Individual Teacher Demonstrations

Each Summer Institute participant has the opportunity to share a writing lesson developed from his or her own teaching situation and interests. During these 45-60 minute presentations, teachers demonstrate a writing lesson, explain the goals of the lesson, and engage in discussion of the lesson with the whole group. The purpose of these presentations is not only to share ideas for teaching writing but also to deepen teachers' understanding of teaching and writing.

If chosen, all teachers will attend a one-day introductory meeting on the MSU-Bozeman campus on Saturday, May 4, during which we will discuss the schedule and requirements of the summer institute and begin forming our community of teachers and writers.

Please consider joining us. The Yellowstone Writing Project has become a vital part of the educational community in the Yellowstone region, and we hope to host another group who can grow our core of teacher-leaders and future consultants for the YWP. We also expect to have a lot of fun. For more information about application requirements and deadlines, email YWP at yellowstonewp@gmail.com.



Department of English



Yellowstone Writing Project

Co-Directors: Drs. Kirk Branch and Allison Wynhoff Olsen

K-12 Co-Director: Aaron Yost

February 9, 2019

Application Form

Instructions: Send the completed application, along with the essay and letter described below in Parts II and III, by March 22, 2019, to the Yellowstone Writing Project, Department of English, Montana State University, 2-176 Wilson Hall, P.O. Box 172300 Bozeman, MT 59717. You may also attach these materials to an email sent to yellowstonewp@gmail.com.

Please Print

Part I

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Current School Affiliation: _____

Grade Level(s) Currently Teaching: _____ Years of Full Time Experience: _____

Subject Areas Taught (if applicable): _____

College or University Attended and Date of Graduation: _____

Graduate Degree(s): _____

Part II

Please include with this application an essay of approximately 400-500 words in which you explain your interest in participating in the Writing Project. In your essay, draw on your own experiences as a teacher to explain your reasons for wanting to become part of the Yellowstone Writing Project, and describe the qualities, experience, or background that you would bring to the project as both a teacher and a writer. Feel free to write your essay in a style that you think best expresses your interest in the Writing Project.

In addition to this essay (which is a required part of your application), feel free to attach any other samples of your own writing that you think might convey a sense of who you are as a writer and/or teacher.

Part III

As part of your application, please include a letter of support from a principal, department supervisor, curriculum coordinator, or another colleague in a similar position who can speak to your interests in the Writing Project and your qualities as a teacher, writer, and colleague.