

The National Writing Project of Acadiana

Invitational Summer Institute

June 13 – July 14, 2005

Griffin Hall, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

What is the National Writing Project of Acadiana?

We are a local site of a national network of teachers, The National Writing Project (NWP). Founded in 1973, NWP is a federally funded teacher organization devoted to improving the teaching of writing in our nation's schools. NWP does not propose any one specific methodology or program. The basic assumptions of NWP are that teachers of writing should be writers themselves, and that *teachers teaching teachers* is the most effective means of genuine school reform. For more information, visit NWP's Web site at www.writingproject.org

The National Writing Project of Acadiana (AWP) began in 1989 under sponsorship of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Each summer, AWP selects 15- 20 exemplary teachers to participate in its invitational summer institute. During the five weeks of the institute, teachers share teaching ideas, read and discuss professional literature, and engage in writing exercises and peer response groups in a friendly, fun, and collegial environment.

"It is worth every minute from 9 to 4 Monday through Thursday for five weeks! Every single minute!"

—Brenda Mounier, summer institute 2002

The institute offers:

- ✍ Six hours of graduate credit at no cost to the teacher
- ✍ A partial tuition scholarship from UL Lafayette and an additional \$500 from the Acadiana Writing Project, which will cover the participant's tuition
- ✍ A chance to learn effective strategies for teaching writing in all subjects, all grades
- ✍ A chance to practice and develop your own writing
- ✍ The autonomy to direct your own learning
- ✍ A chance to grow and learn with other teachers
- ✍ Five weeks of fun, food, and fellowship
- ✍ An ongoing affiliation with local, statewide, and national networks of exemplary teachers

"You will forge new friendships with like-minded people, new ideas to use in your classrooms, and heartfelt memories of a summer filled with passion that will linger."

—Bobbie Ormston, summer institute, 2002

We are seeking applicants who:

- ✍ Have a love of learning and a commitment to improving their teaching practice
- ✍ Have at least one year of teaching experience
- ✍ Are currently employed in any public or private school throughout Acadiana
- ✍ Teach any grade, any subject
- ✍ Want to develop their own writing skills and to improve their teaching of writing

"I can't think of much from AWP that I won't be taking back to my classroom and my writing life. I feel sometimes that I hung on for dear life to every word that was spoken in the classroom. The writing prompts and exercises were outstanding!"

—Lisa Meaux, summer institute 2003

The 2005 Summer Institute will meet Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., from June 13 through July 14. Successful completion earns participants six hours of graduate credit through English 499, a variable-topics course.

The institute introduces teachers to the latest classroom theory and practices in teaching writing. However, the institute also develops teachers as writers. Admission to the Summer Institute is by application only. Use the following form to apply.

National Writing Project of Acadiana, UL Lafayette

Invitational Summer Institute 2005 – Application Form

The application may be typed or handwritten. Attach pages as needed to respond to the three questions below. All applicants will be contacted in mid-March to schedule interviews. Please return completed application by March 1, 2005 to:

Kathleen O'Shaughnessy
120 Beta Drive
Lafayette, LA 70506

Name _____ Social Security number _____

Home address _____

Home phone _____

School name/address _____

School phone _____

Years of teaching experience _____

Current teaching assignment grade level/subject(s) _____

Previous teaching experiences (grades/subjects/schools) _____

1. How did you hear about the summer institute and why are you interested in participating?

2. Describe an effective unit or lesson that includes writing which you have used in your classroom.

3. Select one of the following to respond to in 500 – 700 words:

a. Every good teacher knows that the students are not the only learners in the classroom. What have tried in your classroom in the past year or so that has furthered your own learning? What new perspective or insights about your professional life have you gained?

b. Describe a life experience from the past year or so that provided you with a growth opportunity. What new perspective or insights about your personal life have you gained?