

Washington State Council of Teachers of English

WSCTE ENGLISH
JOURNAL

CWU LION ROCK
TEEN WRITER'S
WORKSHOP

POETRY OUT LOUD
SEASON ONE
SUCCESS AND
TEACHER
TRAINING.

LITERACY
INSTITUTE

BOARD MEETING

MARCH
CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE

*Opportunity
for
Students*



WSCTE JOURNAL REVIVED

The WSCTE Journal has been revived. It is currently at the print shop and will be mailed to those with current memberships in late June. Our goal with the journal is to provide a place for those who teach the Language Arts in Washington State to voice ideas and experiences. It is also a place to share our creativity and that of our students. The tone is personal. We want our journal to create a sense of community among us. From the farmlands to the mountains to the cities and to the waterfronts, our state is beautiful and diverse, but we all share the joy of teaching students the practical and the aesthetic nature of language and literature.

We know you will enjoy the articles, personal narratives, and student work of the journal. Our hope is that they generate conversations with your colleagues in your schools and across the state.

Please consider submitting your own writing to the journal. Our next submission date is February 15, 2009. Information is available on the web page or by e-mailing

waenglishjournal@wscte.org.

Some extra copies of the journal will be available for purchase. Please check the website in later June for more information.

CWU LION ROCK TEEN WRITER'S WORKSHOP

"Picture yourself writing poetry at college this summer. Imagine talking over story ideas with fun, imaginative people. Take a break from your summer job to make new friends, get inspired, and—while you're at it—check out CWU's friendly faces and beautiful grounds."

Such is the invitation to teen writers for CWU's Lion Rock Writer's Workshop. Rob Schnelle of CWU's English Department states, "The workshop aims to give attendees a taste of the college

classroom and campus living prior to their freshman year; additionally, we want to foster creative writing generally and forge stronger ties with high school English faculty."

The workshop is open to students tenth grade and up.

Information:

www.cwu.edu/~english/docs/Lion%20Rock%20Teen%20Writers%20Poster.doc

Registration form:

www.cwu.edu/~english/docs/Registration%20form%20for%20Lion%20Rock%20Teen%20Writer%20Workshop.doc

Congratulations to Washington State Poetry Out Loud winner, Breanna Jones of West Valley High School in Yakima, who was one of twelve finalists in the National Competition in Washington DC in April.

<http://www.arts.wa.gov/education/poetry-out-loud.shtml>

Kudos also to those who worked so hard to bring this competition alive in our state!

Please send announcements of professional offerings to president@wscte.org and we will be happy to get the word out.

POETRY OUT LOUD TEACHER WORKSHOP

Washington State Arts Commission, ESD 105, and Allied Arts are hosting a Poetry Out Loud Workshop for high school teachers.

The workshop will be held in Yakima on August 19. It will focus on how to become comfortable with the teaching of poetry. In the workshop participants will focus on how to read poetry closely for meaning and how to teach poems so that students begin to embrace this art form.

This is a good workshop for those teachers who would like to hone their skills in preparing their students for the Poetry Out Loud competition which asks students to

memorize and recite poems that they have selected from an anthology of poems, however, teachers in the workshop are certainly not required to participate in the Poetry Out Loud competition. The only requirement is an interest in poetry as well as an enthusiasm and willingness to learn.

If you are interested in this workshop, please contact Jessica Moskwa, the director of Allied Arts, at

jessica@alliedartsyakima.org

by June 10.

Ask for information about clock hours.

SUMMER LITERACY ACADEMY

ESD 105 is offering a literacy academy June 23-27. Workshops for every level of K-12 Language Art instruction are offered.

- Digital Story Telling
- Techniques in Teaching the Research Paper
- LETRS training
- Teaching Quality Elaboration
- Persuasive Writing
- The K-12 Reading Model and RTI

- LETRS Modules

- 3-How Spelling Works
- 10-Advanced Decoding and Syllabication
- 11-Writing-The Road to Comprehension
- 12-Assessment

The brochure is available to download at

http://www.esd105.wednet.edu/LearningandTeaching/Literacy/Literacy_Academy_brochure_PDF.pdf

REVIVING THE WSCTE CONFERENCE: MARCH 2009—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

It is time to bring back the WSCTE yearly conference. Through our affiliation with NCTE, we have the opportunity to bring a national speaker to our conference in addition to tapping the expertise of our Washington State English teachers and professors.

NCTE co-sponsored speakers included experts on a wide variety of topics including literacy, ELL, nonfiction texts, writing instruction, adolescent literacy, poetry, and storytelling, just to name a few. You can see the list of possibilities at

<http://www.ncte.org/groups/affiliates/120128.htm>

A conference allows us to meet with teachers and professors from around the state and build both professional and social connections. In order to have the conference, we need volunteers for the program, publicity, and logistics committees. Without you, this just can't happen. The old adage applies, "Many hands make light work."

Committees will begin their work this summer. Much can take place via e-mail. Please let us know if you can help. E-mail

Molly Berger at president@wscte.org

or

Heather Hastie at vicepresident@wscte.org

and let us know how you can help. Thank you in advance!

NEXT BOARD MEETING

SATURDAY, August 23 in Yakima,
E-mail for directions president@wscte.org
or call Molly Berger 509-966-2556

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AT:

[HTTP://WWW.WSCTE.ORG/ABOUT WSCTE.HTM](http://www.wscte.org/about/wscte.htm)

At times as educators, we need to meet with colleagues in our own discipline. Yes, it is beneficial to meet with teachers of all levels and subject matter, but the energy and ideas we gain from meeting with others involved in language arts instruction rejuvenates us.

Questions to spark discussion and/or writing for the newsletter or journal:

- Which would you recommend for your honors students, AP English, College in the High School, or Running Start?
- The state has recommended three textbooks for reading and literature. Is this a good idea or not?
- Do you prefer an anthology of reading selections, novels, or a combination of the two in the classes you teach?
- How do you use documentary films in your classes?
- What techniques do you find successful in working with alternative learners?
- Which classics do you still consider must-reads for your students?
- What criteria would you use to define a "new classic"?
- What role can/should professional organizations play in a teacher's life and in education in general?
- Many ELL students as they progress through the system are able to communicate orally quite smoothly. When it comes to reading and writing, however they often encounter fluency and other problems. What problems do you see most often and what strategies are effective in addressing them?

Please send your ideas to

newsletter@wscte.org

waenglishjournal@wscte.org

president@wscte.org

