



Teachers As Writers

Renew the spirit at the heart of your teaching.



2010 Summer Intensive

Earn 22 CPDUs

July 12-16, 9:15-2:40

Chicago Teachers' Center,

770 N. Halsted, 4th floor

Chicago, IL 60642

Entrance on Chicago Avenue

Teachers as Writers offers a unique approach to professional development, beginning with the belief that teachers who are aware of their own writing process are better able to help their students become confident writers. You'll write, share your work in a supportive community of peers, and then explore ways to adapt your experience to meet the needs of your students. Facilitators are both experienced educators and practicing writers.

Choose one four-part morning thread focusing on your own writing and three afternoon workshops that model strategies for your classroom. Develop a curricular product to bring to school in the fall. Light breakfast and lunch included.

- Go to www.gearupchicago.org for full thread and workshop descriptions and to register. If you have further questions, email us at teachersaswriters@neiu.edu.
- \$400 for the Week. **Price waived for teachers in GEAR UP and other programs affiliated with the Chicago Teachers' Center.** \$250 discount rate for groups of three or more from one school.
\$50 refundable deposit required to guarantee registration. Make check out to Chicago Teachers' Center.
- Seats are limited. Registration will be first come, first served. Street parking is limited. CTA busses stop at our door. CTA Blue Line trains stop three blocks away. Consider car pooling or biking.



Funded in part by a grant from
the U.S. Department of Education



Morning Threads:

Scene 101

Scenes are a powerful storytelling form used in fiction as well as in researched writing and persuasive forms. Experience what good scene writing can do to illustrate a point or to develop a concept. Learn to write scenes and learn how scenes can help your students' writing to become more engaging and sophisticated. **Facilitated by Germania Solórzano.**

Mindful Writing

Whether we approach a writing task with enthusiasm or dread depends less on skill and experience than on the habits and attitudes underlying our writing practice. In this thread, we will pay attention to our writerly habits—what motivates and what deters us, what focuses and what distracts us—as we work along a continuum of attention, intention, engagement and practice towards a short but polished piece of writing. Along the way, we'll reflect on how what we're experiencing as writers can change our understanding of how we teach writing. **Facilitated by Becca Manery.**

Essay Writing for Real World Classrooms

Explore the breadth and possibility of expression through the essay form, using techniques of fiction and creative nonfiction writers as well as scientists, artists, and other thinkers to join the ongoing conversation about the human experience. Move from journal entries and instance writing toward a fully developed draft of a personal or researched essay on a topic that you are passionate about. Perhaps your essay will take the form of a personal statement as part of your professional portfolio or a draft of an article, manifesto, or fictional piece. We'll work directly from a prepared, adaptable curriculum that includes games from the Story Workshop approach, theater, and teambuilding that you can bring into your classroom. In planning sessions, we'll adapt the same curriculum for use with your students. **Facilitated by Polly Mills.**

Afternoon Workshops:

Person-Object

Think of those momentous scenes in movies, stories, legends, history: the moment Ben Franklin stood out in the rain with his kite, Schindler typing his list, Elliot frantically riding his bike in ET, Jack and the magic beans, the evil stepmother and her magic mirror. Oftentimes, how a person interacts with an object can be a pivotal moment for the development of story and for discovery in general. We will work with a specific writing exercise to see the story possibilities of working with an object. **Facilitated by Germania Solórzano.**

Reading for Writers

Writers read to hone their craft, participate in the ongoing conversation, learn from the modeling of their peers, reflect, think, and respond. Explore approaches to strengthen the reading in your classroom through coached oral reading, recall and comment activities, journal writing, and models of critical reading and writing from master writers. **Facilitated by Polly Mills.**

Writing with Digital Technology for Beginning Users

Digital tools and online social media give students an unprecedented opportunity to write for real purposes, reach a wide audience, and work collaboratively in multiple media. In this workshop, we will explore how to create and share engaging writing activities using web-based applications such as VoiceThread. While all are welcome, this workshop will be paced for teachers with little prior experience with digital technology. **Facilitated by Becca Manery and Roxana Hadad.**

Instant Folktales

Folktales are the stories that a culture tells to itself to define values, pass on wisdom, and teach to survive and thrive. Participate in a cache of activities that will translate directly to your classroom to support inquiry into self, culture, and the world, and to develop skills for thinking, telling, creative problem solving, and writing. We'll tell folktales, play the culture, person, object game, play folktale skits and instant folktales, and leave with a draft of a written folktale. **Facilitated by Polly Mills.**

Writing for a Digital World for Intermediate Users

Digital tools and online social media give students an unprecedented opportunity to write for real purposes, reach a wide audience, and work collaboratively in multiple media. In this workshop, we will explore how to create and share engaging writing activities using web-based applications. While all are welcome, this workshop will be paced for teachers with some prior experience with digital technology. **Facilitated by Becca Manery and Roxana Hadad**

Make Something Happen

Tired of reading work that is flat or where nothing happens? We will work with an exercise designed to "make something happen". See how this activity can strengthen all kinds of prose writing. Slowing down and seeing the moment (fictional, historical, scientific, personal) unfold as a scene will capture your own as well as your reader's imagination. **Facilitated by Germania Solórzano.**

Facilitators' Bios:

Germania Solorzano, Professional Development Specialist, has over 18 years of instructional experience from teaching ESL, to high school, to college. She currently teaches Fiction Writing at Columbia College where she received her MFA in Creative Writing. Published in *The Teaching Artist Journal* and *All Hands On*, she is an active writer.

Becca Manery has taught graduate courses in the teaching of writing at Northeastern Illinois University since receiving her M.A. in Reading from NEIU in 2004. As a literacy specialist at Chicago Teachers' Center since 1997, Becca has worked with teachers and students citywide to improve literacy instruction in Chicago Public Schools. A published poet, nonfiction writer, and playwright, she holds an MFA in Creative Writing and Literature from Bennington College. Becca will begin her doctoral studies in the Joint Program in English and Education at the University of Michigan in the fall of 2010.

Polly Mills is a national award-winning fiction writer, certified at the Master Candidate level in the Story Workshop® approach to the teaching of writing. A member of the creative writing faculty at Columbia College, co-author of *Tandem Teaching* writing process manuals for teachers, Polly holds a Master of Arts degree in Creative Writing and the Teaching of Writing from Columbia College Chicago. She has taught writing to children and adults from all walks of life, in school and out, since 1984. Through the GEAR UP grant, she supports teachers and their students in the Chicago Public Schools.

Roxana Hadad, Director of Math, Science and Technology at Northeastern Illinois University's Chicago Teacher's Center, designs, develops, and implements MST program services for Chicago-area students and teachers. Before working at CTC, Roxana was the Project and Instructional Designer for Northwestern University's Collaboratory, a web-based collaborative environment for students and teachers to develop project-based activities. Roxana received her Master's degree from New York University's Interactive Telecommunications Program and has a Bachelor's degree in both English and Spanish from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She begins her doctoral studies in Educational Psychology at the University of Illinois at Chicago this summer. She has been named an Adobe Education Leader, a Google Certified Teacher, an NYU Graduate and Professional Opportunity Fellow and a National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts Fellow.



Teachers As Writers

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What teachers are saying about...

"The focus on our own writing rather than simply how to instruct in writing made this a vital experience for me. Further, there was a respect for the teachers as teachers and writers that permeated every session. This was among the best of my PD experiences."

"I can use all the suggestions in my classroom. I have so many ideas, I will start the first day with journal writing, obviously modeling, plus I will use the snapshot ideas in my instruction among other things I learned this week. I hope to take other [Teachers as Writers] workshops this year."

"I find the service Becca, Polly, and Germania provide to be priceless. Teachers need to have ideas and ways in which to use those ideas. The motivation these talented coaches bring is also essential to teachers everywhere."

"I loved having a chance to write, confront my fears about writing, and put myself in my students' shoes."

2010 Summer Intensive Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
9:15-9:30	Light Breakfast	Light Breakfast	Light Breakfast	Light Breakfast	Light Breakfast	9:15-9:30
9:30-9:50	Introductions and Expectations	MORNING THREADS <i>Scene 101</i> <i>Mindful Writing</i> <i>Essays for the Real World</i>	MORNING THREADS <i>Scene 101</i> <i>Mindful Writing</i> <i>Essays for the Real World</i>	MORNING THREADS <i>Scene 101</i> <i>Mindful Writing</i> <i>Essays for the Real World</i>	CURRICULUM PLANNING	9:30-10:30
9:50-11:50	CURRICULUM PRESENTATION				10:30-11:30	
	Prep/Rewrite for the READING				11:30-12:30	
11:50-12:30	Lunch				Lunch	Lunch
12:30-2:20	AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS <i>Person-Object</i> <i>Reading for Writers</i>	AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS <i>Writing with Digital Technology for Beginning Users</i> <i>Instant Folktales</i>	AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS <i>Writing for a Digital World for Intermediate Users</i> <i>Make Something Happen</i>	CURRICULUM PLANNING	READING AND CELEBRATION	12:30-2:30
2:20-2:40	CURRICULUM PLANNING	CURRICULUM PLANNING	CURRICULUM PLANNING		Evaluations, CPDUs	2:30-2:40