



Archdiocese of Omaha Writing Institute

2018 - 2019

The Archdiocese of Omaha Institute

- Funded by a grant from the MMP Trust
- Included 18 teachers from 16 of the Omaha area Archdiocese schools
- Represented a variety of subjects and levels from second grade to high school English and theology
- Many participants have plans to continue their association with NeWP now that institute has ended.
- The Archdiocese has secured funding to continue institute in 2019-2020 and beyond...



The EQUIPs have probably been the most useful for my classroom...Even my students noticed I was trying new things. They were appreciative of the "invigorated" curriculum. We tried a different approach to outlining, including mind mapping, bullet points and sticky notes. Another area of gratitude is the time you carved out for us to write and meet with our writing groups. It was refreshing to feel like a student again!
--Cathy Kessler

Drew Holtman (Duchesne Academy), Cathy Kessler (Mercy H.S.), and Trevor Herron (Creighton Prep)

Spending time with them as educators, sharing ideas, and sharing writing has made me more confident in reaching out and asking for what I need for my students. My classroom next year will look different in many instructional ways.--Valerie LaCrosse

I leave this institute armed with an arsenal of new curriculum ideas that I plan to roll-out next year. I've made new connections, new friends, and I hope to continue my writing practice.--Megan Piernicky



Megan Piernicky (Marian H.S.), Amy Lovely (St. Thomas More), and Valerie LaCrosse (St. Joan of Arc)



I have already tried several new ways to approach writing with my class, and will continue to utilize them going forward...On a personal note, I have allowed myself the opportunity to explore my own love of writing. I have put some finishing touches on a story that I wrote about nine years ago, as well as starting a new project that would fill a need for my own classroom.--Chris Fuqua

Eileen Sullivan (Mt. Michael Benedictine), Chris Fuqua (Christ the King), and Jen Martinez (St. Pius/St. Leo)

There have been countless times that I have thought "I wish I would have known this sooner" from both the classroom discussions and the book. --Matt Jones

The most valuable thing to me is getting new ideas about how to improve student writing in my classroom and getting the chance to write again!--Amy Sauser



Matthew Jones (St. Cecilia), Diana Weis (NeWP Facilitator), and Amy Sauser (Skutt H.S.)



I have loved getting new ideas from other ELA teachers. It has been extremely valuable to be able to tap in to their experience in the classroom, and it has been very affirming that we share similar struggles with our students. I definitely plan to use many of the EQUIP ideas in my classroom going forward. I also plan to continue to write independently, which is something I had gotten away from before the institute.--Tracy Pruitt

Sharon Maron (Holy Cross), Nate Horner (Elkhorn St. Patrick's), Tracy Pruitt (St. Bernards), and Daniel Boster (NeWP Facilitator)

The Institute has inspired me to move forward in ways I did not think possible. I finally finished a manuscript I have been working on for several years! I wrote a query letter and synopsis for it this weekend and plan to submit my work to an agent this week. My critique group energized and inspired me to continue, and they gave me such valuable feedback.--Jen Heithoff

[This institute was] a safe space where I could be vulnerable and share some of the most private parts of me through my writing while learning how to better serve my young writers in the classroom.--Michelle Wilson



Jen Heithoff (Christ the King), Michelle Wilson (St. Pius/St. Leo), and Lisa Klemme (St. Wenceslaus)



**Archdiocese of Omaha
Writing Project Institute
2018-2019**

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