



## Annual Invitational Summer Institute

The Kennesaw Mountain Writing Project, located on the campus of Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia, seeks to encourage initiative, recognize individual contributions, promote creativity, enhance communities, and provide opportunities for professional growth. Founded in 1994, the KMWP is part of a larger national organization called the National Writing Project, which aims to improve the writing skills of students by improving the writing and teaching skills of those who have the most impact on students' learning—their teachers. KMWP is committed to helping teachers become leaders inside and outside of the classroom. A primary vehicle through which this goal is accomplished is the Invitational Summer Institute for teachers:

The basic writing project model is quite simple. Each summer at every writing project site, exemplary teachers come together in . . . summer institutes where they demonstrate and examine their classroom practice, study the latest research about teaching writing, and develop their own writing skills. As a result of these activities, teachers are better prepared for their own classrooms and for teaching other teachers. This teachers-teaching-teachers idea is the heart of the writing project. (<http://www.writingproject.org/Programs/localsites>)



We invite you to come and participate in our program as a Summer Institute Fellow, a teacher who will teach others. Participating in the Summer Institute counts as a Kennesaw State University graduate course worth 3 graduate credit hours or 3-5 non-technology PLUs (Professional Learning Units).

## *Why attend the KMWP Summer Institute?*

**Build your confidence as a writer and educator** by becoming a writer and a student. For four weeks in the summer, an institute fellow is reminded of what it is like to sit in a classroom staring at a blank piece of paper. You will grow as an educator by feeling yourself on the other side of the desk!

**Learn to think about literacy in productive new ways** that carry across all grade levels, kindergarten through university.

**Become a part of a community** that empowers you to teach students through quality writing techniques.

**Develop ideas for using writing** in multi-disciplinary ways.

**Share your best teaching practices** with colleagues from a variety of demographic settings

**Gain technology skills** as well as ideas on how to use technology in the classroom.

**Learn to teach with enhanced understanding of local, state and national standards for assessing writing.**

**Join an active organization** that provides many free opportunities for true professional development.

**Establish a network** of professional contacts throughout the metro-Atlanta area.



## *Comments from Past Summer Institute Fellows*

*I am most proud of my growth as a writer, the collegial support in this Institute, and [affirmations] of my demonstration lesson.*

*The experience has already impacted me personally as I have seen myself grow in the way I look at myself as a writer, a teacher, and a person. The goals I am setting for myself are to continue to stay positive about my teaching despite the negativity that may surround me at my school, to continue reading professionally, to continue reflecting and journaling.*

*Through my [summer] experience, I have learned many wonderful writing strategies that I believe will greatly impact my teaching practices starting next school year.*

*I realized that I could write! Now I need to apply all that I've learned to my teaching. I feel energized and ready to go.*

*The experience gave me both motivation and support for making positive changes for writing instruction in my high school classes. It also gave me confidence in my own work so that I have submitted and been published.*

## *Summer Institute Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*

- **What is the pre-Institute workshop?**

The **required** pre-Institute workshop is in the late afternoon and evening of May 8<sup>th</sup> in the Jolley Lodge on the KSU campus. At this time, fellows register for the summer course and gather study materials.
- **How is the Institute different from other professional development opportunities?**

The multi-week Institute is a workshop designed to be both more demanding and more fulfilling than traditional staff development programs. Also, the Institute connects to the National Writing Project's philosophy that teachers improve their own classroom practices by working with other outstanding educators in group-learning activities.
- **Will I have a lot of "homework" to do outside Institute hours?**

Since Institute participants earn three semester hours of graduate credit, they are expected to do some reading and writing outside of Institute hours. However, since fellows actively engage in daily learning, they may spend less time doing "homework" than for other graduate classes.
- **How much is the stipend, and when will I receive it?**

The stipend pays graduate course tuition and fees (about \$650). You do not pay this out of pocket; KMWP makes payment directly to KSU. The additional personal stipend of \$300 is paid after the Institute is over. Fellows earn this honorarium by attending all sessions, participating in workshop activities, and completing all individual and group tasks. Individuals not completing the program do not receive the stipend.
- **What are the attendance expectations for participants?**

In general, we expect participants to be present every day. Barring unusual extenuating circumstances, no fellow should miss more than one whole day of the Institute, and all absences should be approved by the faculty director in advance. Any time missed beyond one day must be made up by doing additional work for the KMWP program. Fellows should remain on campus during Institute hours.
- **How much will my books cost?**

Fellows should budget about \$75 for books. You will purchase your own copies.
- **May I bring guests to the Summer Institute?**

The KMWP welcomes adult visitors, especially administrators and teachers who might like to apply to participate in future Summer Institutes. **What instructional settings, grade levels, and subject areas are represented at the Institute?**

We always seek a group representing the full (Pre)K-University teaching levels. We welcome teachers from the business world (e.g., corporate training centers) or from specialty schools and home schools. We welcome any teacher of writing, regardless of subject area.
- **To qualify as a fellow, how computer-comfortable do I need to be?**

Fellows need not be computer experts but will be expected to try a variety of learning experiences in a computer classroom.
- **What are my chances of being selected as a fellow?**

We usually choose 20 candidates from the initial applicant pool to interview for our 15-18 Summer Institute slots. If you are invited for an interview, you have an excellent chance of becoming a fellow. Upon selection, you will be asked to sign a commitment form.
- **What if, after committing to the Institute, I find I cannot participate for personal reasons?**

Please notify us immediately so we can contact an alternate before the pre-Institute workshop in early May.
- **Can I register for other graduate courses at KSU that do not conflict with Summer Institute?**

Yes, though we ask that you not sign up for any other courses until we have registered you for the Summer Institute. If you're concerned about class availability, you may contact us, and we will work to ensure that you are able to take any other classes you desire in summer term.
- **What is a teaching demonstration or workshop? What do I need to bring for my teaching demonstration?**

Fellows' demonstrations will be examples of lessons which involve writing in their own classrooms or in-service programs they have led. If you have some idea of what favorite lesson or workshop you might like to share for your teaching demonstration, bring the needed materials from your classroom.

## About Us . . .

The Kennesaw Mountain Writing Project (KMWP) was established in 1994 on the campus of Kennesaw State University. The KMWP began its work by addressing the two goals consistent with the NWP model of teachers teaching teachers: to prepare educators, K-through-university, to apply what they learned during an invitational Summer Institute by becoming more effective teachers of writing in their own classrooms and to prepare teacher leaders who can serve as mentors or teacher consultants-teaching colleagues the best practices for literacy instruction. The KMWP continues to refine its Summer Institute curriculum. Our site is committed to helping teachers become leaders inside and outside of the classroom.

Visit the following web sites to find out more about the KMWP or about the National Writing Project.

The National Writing Project Website  
<http://www.nwp.org>

The Kennesaw Mountain Writing Project Website  
<http://www.kmwp.org>



## Contact Us . . .

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