



**“Teachers Teaching Teachers”**

An educational non-profit dedicated to improving teaching and writing.

# rrvwp

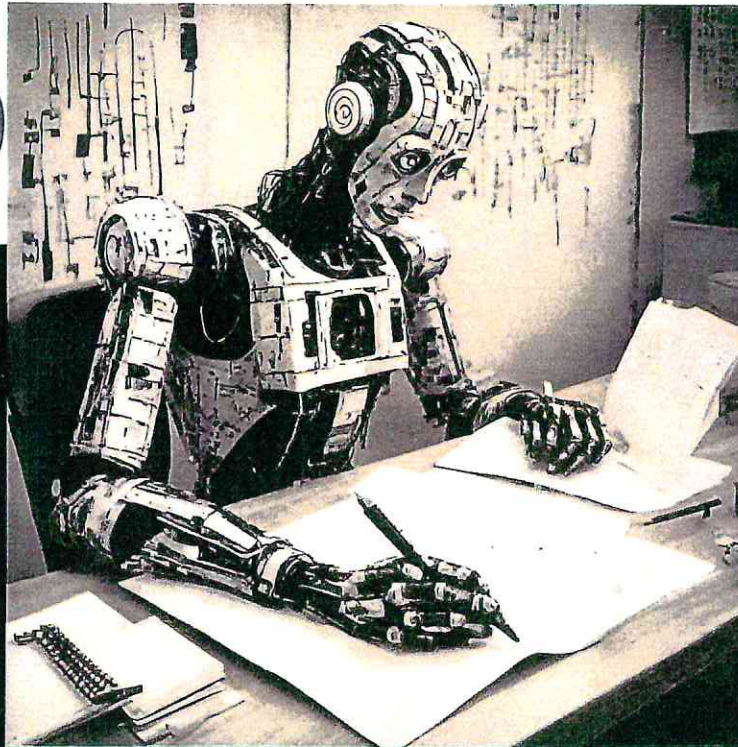
## SUMMER INSTITUTE:

"TEACHERS TEACHING  
TEACHERS"

- 3 Grad Credits
- July 7-18
- In-person @ NDSU
- Participant Stipends

APPLY HERE:

<https://forms.gle/r1T1GsBtTr891btR7>



## AI WRITING & CRITICAL THINKING

15 Teachers/Year

60 Training Hours

Innovation

Leadership



"AI literacy means understanding that AI is a tool that can help critical thinkers shape their ideas and provide suggestions for effective communication."

**-Tanya Neumiller**



red river  
valley  
writing  
project

We educators must shift our mindset to embrace AI literacy as the focus of our new digital learning era.

**-Brandy O'Toole**



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"A.I. Literacy to me means being open to innovation while practicing and teaching restraint in terms of relying on it fully, creating balance."

**-Robert Hutton**



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"AI literacy means developing the knowledge, skills, and expertise to understand, evaluate, and use the right kind of AI tools ethically and responsibly for the right purposes in order to assist humans in achieving greater goals in creating and circulating knowledge in their own voices."

**-Jainab Banu**

# Teacher Resources: Writing & Media Literacy

## August: Back-to-School Prompt

Need a quick get-to-know-you writing prompt to help students introduce themselves? Use this TikTok video about birthdays to inspire students to tell you who they are. Added bonus: Use responses as a beginning writing sample.

### The Thing About Birthdays

- [TikTok](#)
- [Video](#)
- [Transcript](#)

Use one idea or a combination for inspiration!

#### Writing Prompt Ideas:

- Tell me five things you enjoy doing and what age you were when you first began doing those things.
- Describe yourself in five words and what ages those descriptions started.
- Detail five events in your life that influenced who you are today.
- What parts of you are you the most proud of and what parts are you excited to grow out of?
- What about you now do you hope you never out grow?
- What were you like five years ago? How are you similar and how are you different? What do you think you will be like five years from now? What parts of you do you think will fade over time?
- Create a timeline of your life that tells the story of how your personality became what it is today.

#### ChatGPT Writing Prompt Ideas:

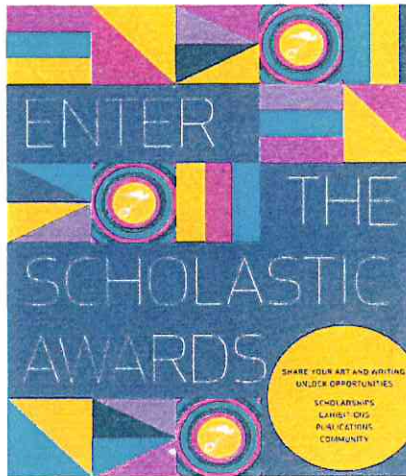
- Imagine meeting the different versions of yourself from past birthdays at a party. Write a dialogue between you and one or more of these past selves. What would you learn from them? What advice would you give to them?
- Write a letter to yourself to be opened on your next birthday. Reflect on the past year's experiences and how they have added to the layers of who you are. What hopes and expectations do you have for the coming year?
- Explore how the different ages you've been influence who you are today. How do these different versions of yourself manifest in your daily life?
- Choose a memorable age from your past and write a story about a significant event that happened that year. How does that event still impact you today? In what ways does that year's version of you still exist within your current self?

#### Mentor Text Idea:

- Have students use the video as a mentor text to write about an important aspect of their lives. Try this [template](#).



# Statewide Art & Writing Competition



Over \$3,000 in cash prizes  
for North Dakota teens!

NDSU Art & English  
Scholarships!

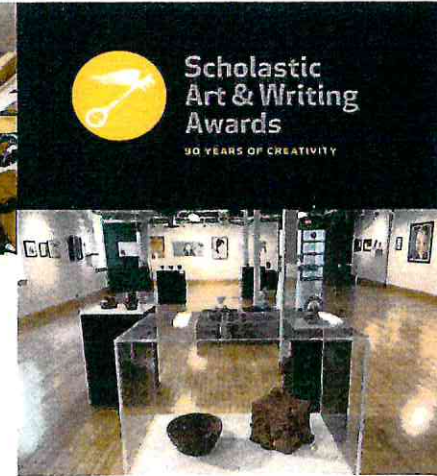
Get Published! "Best Teen  
Writing of North Dakota"!

National Winners honored  
at Carnegie Hall in NYC!



WHAT: *North Dakota State Awards Ceremony*  
WHEN: *Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00-7:30 PM*  
WHERE: *Plains Art Museum in Fargo, ND*

- Keynote speaker Anna Johnson, indigenous artist
- Cash Prizes courtesy of event sponsor, John Deere
- Scholarships from NDSU Art & English departments
- Digital Exhibition of award-winning teen art & writing
- Refreshments provided



## How to ENTER



[www.artandwriting.org/  
awards/how-to-enter/](http://www.artandwriting.org/awards/how-to-enter/)



## 2024 National Medalists



**Allura Grey Bear** (Minnewaukan, ND)  
Gold Medal and American Voices Medal  
Poetry, "Winyan"



**Briar Olson** (Fargo, ND)  
Gold Medal  
Flash Fiction, "The Trial Vignettes"



# Raising Rural Voices: Civic Journalism



Photo by Katelyn H. Taken April 16, 2024.



Photo by Holly H. Taken November 14, 2023.



Pictured above (from left to right): Cindy Kingsbury, John Kingsbury, and Bonnie Uran. Picture by Easton G.



Photo By Addia E.



Photo By Addia E.



Picture by Claire E. on June 20, 2024

Picture by Claire E. on June 20, 2024





**Scholastic  
Art & Writing  
Awards**

Alliance for  
Young Artists  
& Writers

# SCHOLASTIC WRITING WORKSHOP

\* 7:00 PM

*This workshop will  
help students write  
and revise for the  
AWARDS!*

SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER  
12TH!

ZOOM LINK:



North Dakota State University



## CREATIVE WRITING CAMP

All students entering grades 7-12 may participate, regardless of skill level. Daily sessions include fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, fantasy, screenwriting, song writing, and graphic novels.

**SESSION #1: JUNE 24-28**

**SESSION #2: AUGUST 5-9**

**9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

\$230 includes all supplies, a camp t-shirt, meals, and snacks. \$180 for virtual. Scholarships are available.

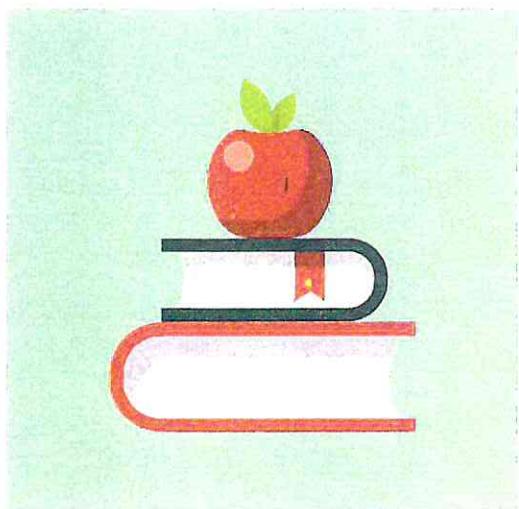
**NEW THIS YEAR: GRADES 4-6  
JUNE 17-20 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
\$100**

**SAVE YOUR SPOT!**

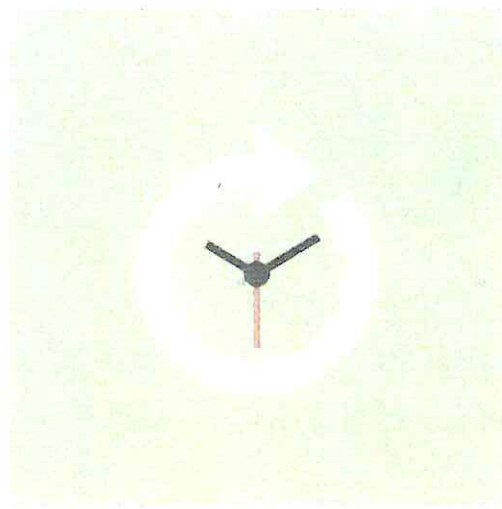
[https://www.ndsu.edu/english/outreach/creative\\_writing\\_camp/](https://www.ndsu.edu/english/outreach/creative_writing_camp/)  
For more information: [jamee.larson@ndsu.edu](mailto:jamee.larson@ndsu.edu)



## Quantifiable Impact



160  
Teachers



164  
Training Hours



+600  
Students



# Teacher Testimonials

- "I loved this opportunity to work with and learn from other educators!"
- "Really excellent! I have got familiar with so many innovative ideas. It has opened up new avenues for me to rethink AI."
- "Demo sessions are really innovative. Group discussions are really helpful. Moreover, the way you organized each session is really excellent."
- "The discussions challenged me to think about different aspects of AI. I am realizing it is not a black and white issue, and I will need to work through some of the gray areas to develop my own policy and level of use in the classroom."

# Teacher Testimonials

- "Our book discussions and activities were especially helpful, along with the demos. Actually getting the opportunity to DO the activities - to get practice in prompting, evaluating feedback from AI, and comparing human vs. AI writing was all very helpful!"
- "I loved the structure and format of the course. It really created high level thinking activities and a lot of great application to concepts. Definitely love this format."
- "Everything seemed organized from the beginning and end of each day which made it easy to follow the learning expectations of this course. This course has been very practical in using AI tools in the classroom for us to learn about the nuances of AI tools."





**Red River Valley Writing Project**  
*Improving Literacy, K-College*

Dear Chairman ~~Nath~~<sup>Servaa</sup> and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ben Melby, Director of the Red River Valley Writing Project (RRVWP), and I support funding for ~~SB~~ 1013, specifically a passthrough grant funding writing project work with North Dakota teachers and students.

Funds from this bill are necessary to sustain our non-profit organization that serves K-College educators and students across the entire state. Our partner organization, Northern Plains Writing Project (NPWP) is based in Minot and serves western North Dakota, while RRVWP serves primarily eastern North Dakota. Our organization's aims are:

1. To provide high-quality **teacher training** for writing instruction.
2. To increase the quality and quantity of **student writing** done both inside and outside of schools.
3. To enrich our communities and **civic life** through more opportunities to write together and share through writing.

The scope and impacts of our public service are detailed on an enclosed project summary. In the past biennium, we reached a total of **160 teachers**, with **164 hours of professional development training**. Additionally, we engaged **over 600 student writers** in our writing competitions, camps, workshops, and writing groups.

Passthrough grant funding from ~~SB~~ 1013 will support:

1. Teacher professional development courses on **AI literacy, civic literacy, and digital literacy**.
2. Inservice teacher training on **writing across the curriculum** and workplace writing.
3. Youth programs such as **"Raising Rural Voices"** (an initiative to bring rural students' stories to a national audience) and the **Scholastic Art & Writing Awards** (the "state championships" for teen artists and writers).
4. Instructional coaching support and resource development for **rural, high needs ND schools**.

Our proposed budget outline for the 25-27 biennium can be found on the enclosed budget request.

Thank you for your important, time-intensive civic service. We hope to return the favor by working hard to support student writers and the teaching of writing in the state of North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Ben Melby, Director, Red River Valley Writing Project

**RED RIVER VALLEY WRITING PROJECT**

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701.630.9566 | Fax 701.231.1047 | benjamin.melby@ndsu.edu | michele.sherman@ndsu.edu |  
<https://sites.google.com/ndsu.edu/redrivervalleywritingproject/home>

# **The Red River Valley Writing Project**

## **DPI Project Summary, Scope of Work, and Specific Aims**

### **Objective:**

To **improve literacy** and the **teaching of writing** in ND schools (K-College) in all subject areas, through professional development for teachers, leadership training, and direct work with student writers in youth writing camps, workshops, and competitions. To focus on writers as **informed, intentional, and innovative creators** who can boost North Dakota's economy and enrich civic life.

### **Project Summary & Scope of Work:**

#### **Grant-funded Programing**

We obtain grant funding (e.g. MacArthur Foundation, American Institute of Research, National Writing Project) to run youth journalism workshops ("Raising Rural Voices"), support rural instructors in high needs schools ("Coach.Teach.Write."), and develop instructional resources to engage students in the rich cultural history of our state ("American Creed" and "Japanese-American Confinement Education").

#### **Summer Invitational Leadership Institutes**

We provide intensive, 45–60-hour professional development institutes to North Dakota writing teachers from K-College—led by veteran writing instructors, who demonstrate effective teaching practices and guide participants as they develop and refine their own teaching practices. Our current emphasis has been on AI writing, digital literacy, and civic literacy. We select the most talented, hard-working teacher participants who have great leadership potential. Our writing project trained teachers often go on to become literacy leaders and coaches for their local schools and districts.

#### **Continuity & Community Writing Programs**

We support the continued learning and engagement of both teachers and community members. Teachers who complete our Summer Institute go on to organize and lead writing groups, book discussions, and in-service teaching demonstrations. We also support the community with opportunities to connect and write—for example, our "Pens & Pints" writing pub crawl, "Warrior Words" for military veterans, "Grief and Bereavement" writing, "Novel Writing," and "Write Across America" writing marathons.

#### **In-service Teacher Trainings and Conference Presentations**

We partner with specific schools to evaluate and improve literacy and writing instruction (previous and ongoing partnerships include support of literacy objectives at Belcourt, Dunseith, Hatton-Eielson, Oakes, Beulah, Flasher, and Central Cass). We promote writing across the curriculum (not just in English classes) and give teachers strategies for using writing to enhance learning in all content areas. Our teachers also share these strategies at local and regional conferences, such as ND Council of Teachers of English, ND Multi-tier System of Supports, and the NWP Midwest conferences.

#### **Teen Writing Camps & Workshops**

Engages North Dakota's creative young voices in writing workshops, weekly "Word Herd" writing groups, and weeklong summer writing camps, where students work with our teacher-leaders, NDSU creative writing instructors, and guest writers (many top professional writers from our region lead workshops at the camps).

#### **Scholastic Art & Writing Awards**

Offers North Dakota's teens (grades 7-12) the opportunity to enter the country's most prestigious and competitive art & writing competition, with thousands of dollars of prize/scholarship money offered at both the state and national levels. We run fundraising, promotions, workshops, adjudication, and publication of student work. Additionally, our organization, in partnership with Plains Art Museum, hosts a literary reading event, art exhibition, and state awards ceremony each year to recognize the award recipients. We reach all corners of the state with this program.



## **DPI Budget Request for the 2025-2027 Biennium: Northern Plains & Red River Valley Writing Project**

### **Objective:**

To **improve literacy** and the **teaching of writing** in ND schools (K-College) in all subject areas, through professional training for teachers and direct work with students in youth writing camps, workshops, and competitions. To foster **informed, intentional, and innovative communication** that can boost North Dakota's economy and enrich civic life.

### **DPI Budget Request for the 2025-2027 Biennium:**

#### **Summer Leadership & Advanced Institutes**

**\$46,000**

To support graduate tuition waivers and participant stipends for approximately 50 teachers per year to receive 8 weeks of intensive professional development and leadership training. For the next biennium, training will focus on AI writing, digital media literacy, and other pressing needs for today's teachers.

#### **Instructional Workshops & Book Studies**

**\$10,000**

To support approximately 20 teachers per year in studying, developing, and sharing innovative lesson plans, activities, and curricular materials for teaching writing in the ever-changing world of digital tools and writing situations.

#### **Administrative Support**

**\$10,000**

To support a programming director, whose duties include leading monthly planning meetings, applying for grants, managing budgets, submitting budget and grant reports, contracting services, overseeing teacher consultants, coordinating with larger organizational networks, and promoting services to increase engagement and visibility.

#### **Conference Participation**

**\$2,000**

To help support travel, lodging, and registration fees for up to 10 teachers attending regional conferences such as NDCTE in Mandan, ND.

#### **Continuing Association Fee**

**\$2,000**

To cover \$1,000 annual association fees to the National Writing Project network.

#### **Youth Programs**

**\$ 2,000**

To help support statewide youth writing programs such as the North Dakota Art & Writing Awards (the state championships for teen artists and writers) and "Raising Rural Voices" (a teen journalism initiative).

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**TOTAL 2025-2027 Biennium Budget**

**\$ 72,000**