

**Tidewater Writing Project
Old Dominion University**

An OVERVIEW

The Tidewater Writing Project is a satellite of the Virginia Writing Project and a part of the larger network of the National Writing Project. Located in the College of Education at Old Dominion University, the project has the following general aims:

- (1) to attract teachers of all subject areas K-12, who are interested in improving student writing;
- (2) to enable those teachers to collaborate and explore research on the teaching of writing, various approaches to writing instruction, and alternative models for evaluating writing;
- (3) to inspire teachers in improving their own writing;
- (4) to develop a corps of teacher consultants--representative of all subject areas--in the writing project who will help other teachers in Chesapeake, Franklin, Isle of Wight, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Southampton County, Suffolk, Virginia Beach toward improving student writing in all school subjects.

To be selected for the summer institute, one must fill out an application send it to:

Dr. Lea Lee,
Director
Tidewater Writing Project
Old Dominion University
Educational Curriculum & Instruction
145 Education Building
Norfolk, VA 23529
Tel: 757-683-4801 Fax: 757-683-5862 ▪ lxlee@odu.edu

Limited space is available. Teachers selected for the institute will receive graduate credits or Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

According to evaluations by participants in previous institutes, teachers will acquire a new sense of professionalism about the teaching of written composition and the uses of writing as a teaching tool across the curriculum.

**Application for the Tidewater Writing Project's (Due on March 1)
SUMMER INSTITUTE**

June - July

Monday to Friday 9:00am-3:00pm

Please return this application to the Tidewater Writing Project, Old Dominion University
145 Education Building, Norfolk, VA 23529 ▪ Tel: 757-683-4801 Fax: 757-683-5862 ▪ lxlee@odu.edu

NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____
City State Zip Code

SCHOOL NAME _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS _____
City State Zip Code

PERSONAL PHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

SCHOOL DIVISION _____

GRADE LEVEL(S) TAUGHT _____

SUBJECT AREA(S) TAUGHT _____

YEARS OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE _____

Are you currently enrolled in a master's program at Old Dominion University? _____

If so, which program are you enrolled in? _____

Please respond to all of the following:

- A. How did you hear about the Tidewater Writing Project (TWP)?
- B. How did you become interested in TWP, and what do you hope to gain from this professional development opportunity?
- C. How do you use writing in your classroom, and why do you use it the way you do?
- D. Please list the institutions you attended and degrees and credentials received.
- E. Please describe your plan to seek financial support from your district/school or others to pay tuition for the summer institute.

***It is strongly recommended that applicants also include a letter of recommendation from a supervisor to supplement his/her application.

*** Please seek scholarship assistance from school districts to support partial tuition.

Basic Assumptions of The National Writing Project

The National Writing Project is the premier effort to improve writing in America. Through its professional development model, based on the assumptions below, NWP builds the leadership, programs, and research needed for teachers to help their students become successful writers and learners. Studies of student achievement both local and national show positive results.

1. The university and the schools must work together as partners. The “top-down” tradition of past university-school programs is no longer acceptable as a staff development model.
2. Successful teachers of writing can be identified, brought together during university Summer Institutes, and trained to teach other teachers in follow-up programs in the schools.
3. Teachers are the best teachers of other teachers: successful practicing teachers have a credibility no outside consultant can match.
4. Summer Institutes must involve teachers from all levels of instruction, elementary school through university; student writing needs constant attention and repetition from the early primary grades on through the university years.
5. Summer Institutes must involve teachers from across the disciplines; writing is as fundamental to learning in science, in mathematics, and in history as it is in English and the language arts.
6. Teachers of writing must also write: Teachers must experience what they are asking of their students when they have students write; the process of writing can be understood best by engaging in that process first hand.
7. Real change in classroom practice happens over time; effective staff development programs are on-going and systematic, bringing teachers together regularly throughout their careers to test and evaluate the best practices of other teachers and the continuing developments in the field.
8. What is known about the teaching of writing comes not only from research but from the practice of those who teach writing.
9. The National Writing Project, by promoting no single “right” approach to the teaching of writing, is now and will always be open to whatever is known about writing from whatever source.