



RED RIVER VALLEY WRITING PROJECT
Improving Literacy Instruction, K-16

College-Ready Writers Program: An Advanced Institute of the RRVWP

Send applications and questions to

Kelly.Sassi@ndsu.edu

Red River Valley Writing Project

Dept. 2320, PO Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58108

701-231-7156

What is an Advanced Institute?

Typically, an Advanced Institute is for RRVWP Teacher Consultants who have completed a Summer Institute. It builds on the approaches to teaching writing that have been introduced in the SI and focuses on building leadership capacity.

What is the College-Ready Writers Program?

The College-Ready Writers' Program was developed by the National Writing Project over the past two years to improve the argument writing of students in grades 7-12 by introducing teachers to new instructional practices. The program involves intensive professional development to support classroom implementation. Teachers receive a set of NWP-developed curricular resources including "mini-units" for argument writing. There is regular use of formative assessment tools to focus teachers' analysis of student work. The CRWP focuses on recruiting participants who work with high-needs students.

Is the College-Ready Writers Program effective?

Yes, a 2-year random assignment evaluation by an outside evaluator, SRI, found that the CRWP had a positive, statistically significant effect on four attributes of student argument writing—content, structure, stance, and conventions. In particular, CRWP students demonstrated greater proficiency in the quality of reasoning and use of evidence in their writing. The program was implemented in 22 districts across 10 states delivered by 12 writing project sites. Now, the RRVWP has received a grant to implement the CRWP program in Eastern North Dakota and Northwestern Minnesota.

When and where is the Program?

Summer Launch (1 graduate credit, 20 hours)

Option 1: July 19-21 in Grand Forks —or—

Option 2: August 2-4 in Fargo-Moorhead

Academic Year (3 graduate credits, 40 hours)

Monthly meetings from September 2016-May 2017, some in person in Fargo-Moorhead and some online. Participants are required to bring student argument writing samples to at least two sessions.

Who can participate?

Secondary teachers of any subject, and instructional leaders in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota may apply. Participants who successfully complete the entire program are eligible for a stipend which covers tuition and travel costs associated with participation.

How can I apply?

By May 1, please submit the following application materials:

- a brief **resume** with three references (and contact information) listed, one of whom should be an administrator or supervisor;
- a **letter of application** that addresses the following qualifications:
 - dates of previous NWP or RRVWP institutes attended or familiarity with NWP principles
 - experience working with high-needs students
 - experience with and interest in argument writing
 - plans for developing professional development on the College Ready Writing Program for your school and/or district.