

### What is NWPNH?

NWPNH is the New Hampshire site of the National Writing Project and shares the national mission. Our purpose is to improve the teaching of writing in New Hampshire schools. Each summer, NWPNH brings master teachers of writing to Plymouth State University for a teachers-leading-teachers model of professional development.

### Conference Registration

Registration Fees: \$75

NWPNH Fellows: \$65

Student Rate: \$65

Please register online at:  
<https://campus.plymouth.edu/nwpnh/>

Click "Annual Conference" on the right.

Questions? Contact Kari Allen:

[kari.diederich.allen@gmail.com](mailto:kari.diederich.allen@gmail.com)



### Conference Schedule

9:00-9:20	Registration, Coffee & Small Snack
9:20-9:40	Welcome & Writing Activity
9:45-10:55	Session 1
10:55-11:10	Break
11:10-12:20	Session 2
12:20-1:20	Lunch (Prospect Dining Hall)
1:20-2:30	Session 3
2:30-2:50	Closing

Workshops will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. We will do the best we can to accommodate workshop preferences and keep sessions intentionally small with 20 participants or fewer per session.

**When:** Thursday, November 8, 2018

**Where:** Plymouth State University  
Merrill Place Conference Center  
Plymouth, NH

National Writing Project in New Hampshire

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## NWPNH Annual Conference

### Taste of the Writing Project

Join us to learn why our fellows describe our Summer Writing Institute as among the best professional development they have ever had.



National Writing Project  
in New Hampshire  
*because writing matters*

<https://campus.plymouth.edu/nwpnh/>

## Session 1

1-A. NWPNH SUMMER 2018 POST-INSTITUTE MEETING: This is a meeting for participants in the 2018 Summer Institute.

1-B. CREATING INTERDISCIPLINARY OUTREACH PROJECTS: Our PSU Bicknell's Thrush Project is to raise awareness about a rare bird that migrates between the high peaks of NH & the mountains on the island of Hispaniola. Learn about a tool that helps you plan & evaluate an interdisciplinary unit appealing to all learners incorporating science, creativity, past & present, & society directions. Participants will collaboratively create an example on a current event topic & have an opportunity to plan a unit of their own choosing using the tool. Peers will provide input. **Mary Ann McGarry** is a past NWPNH fellow & special focus institute participant & chair of the environmental science & policy department at PSU.

1-C. BUILDING QUALITY CLASSROOM COMMUNITIES: The question is: What is a "quality classroom community" & why is it so important? We'll write, share our teacher stories, model & examine what the research says about the impact classroom communities have on living & learning — now & in the future. We'll put ideas into practice & adapt the "keepers" to our own situations. **Gretchen Draper** is a certified NWPNH Teacher Consultant & a Level II Trainer in Kingian Nonviolence & Reconciliation. She has a long career in NH as a teacher, writer & special education consultant.

1-D. A PROJECT-BASED APPROACH TO STRENGTHENING DESCRIPTION WRITING IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Do your students lack descriptive details in their writing & struggle to see what's missing? Do you enjoy creating projects? This session will explore a hands-on approach to help students identify what descriptions are missing in their writing, & how to plan opportunity for revision. Participants in this session will see an example of how this works in the elementary classroom & learn implementation strategies by experiencing this hands-on project-based approach themselves. **Christina Lamson** is a past NWPNH fellow, returning fellow, staff, teacher-consultant, & on the leadership team. She is a library media specialist in Goffstown, NH.

## Session 2

2-A. SPINNING NARRATIVE: This lesson is embedded in a narrative writing unit. Throughout the unit, in addition to discussing the themes & implications in a variety of narrative writings, students identify & examine the stylistic choices authors make to help convey meaning in text. Students are encouraged to experiment with the mentor writer's craft, & implement it in their own narrative writing. In this particular lesson, students read, decipher, & emulate Tim O'Brien's stylistic techniques in the chapter "Spin" from his book *The Things They Carried*. **Mandy Tirrell** is a past NWPNH fellow. She teaches English at Merrimack Valley High School in Penacook.

2-B. BLEND THE TEACHING OF BEST PRACTICES IN LITERACY WITH CONNECTING LEARNING: Fuse best practice literacy instruction with technology to steer students to fall irrevocably in love with reading, writing, & deep thinking. We will delve into blogging, Twitter, Global Read Aloud, Mock Caldecott Award, Dot Day, connected poetry, virtual book clubs, & Mystery Skype. **Rachel Small** is a teacher librarian in Burlington, Massachusetts. She is a doctoral candidate at Plymouth State University.

2-C. WRITING OUR COMMUNITIES: Participants will engage in the National Writing Project in New Hampshire journey to embed place-based reading & writing into the content area curriculum for all students Pre-K through college. Through inquiry units the students actively engaged with the history, culture, social, environment, & economics of their local community through writing, walking field trips, & research. Includes the perspectives of a third grade teacher, a district administrator & two college writing instructors. **Andrew Mercer** is a past NWPNH fellow & returning fellow. *Andrew teaches 4th grade in Plymouth.* **Gail Bourn** is a past NWPNH fellow & teacher consultant. *Gail is the academic coordinator of teaching & learning in Laconia.* **Meg Petersen** is the Director of the NWPNH & a professor of English at Plymouth State University. **Fanny Fernandez** is a past NWPNH fellow & a teacher of composition & ESL at Plymouth State University.

2-D. COMMON LANGUAGE IN ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING: This session will present the Harris Moves metaphors for argumentative language. The presenter will share metaphors & provide time for participants to use this tool & apply it to their work with argument writing in their classes. **Alexis Sebilian** is a NWPNH Writing Project fellow & teaches English at Villas Middle School in Alstead, NH.

## Session 3

3-A. MIDDLE/ HIGH VOICES: A CELEBRATION OF LEARNING: NWPNH, in collaboration with the Scholastic Writing Contest, offers NH students the opportunity to submit their work for publication & awards. Come be inspired by writers in grades 7-12. Together let's explore what's possible for your authors & in your classrooms. **Ann Moller** is a NWPNH Fellow & a retired high school teacher & a NWPNH Teacher Consultant.

3-B. WHAT'S YOUR MEDIA ENVIRONMENT?: It's no secret that the media is all around us, but to what extent are we conscious of its influence? With the prevalence of media in our students' lives, one of the most important skills we can teach them is media literacy — how to see through the messages they're being sent. In this workshop, participants will learn how to guide students toward the first step of media literacy by analyzing how often they use media, in what formats, & for what purposes. Workshop participants will practice this by analyzing their own media use, with the goal of helping students answer the question, "To what extent does your media use support your vision of a happy & successful life?" **Alden Bird** is a 2018 NWPNH Fellow. He teaches high school English in Montpelier, Vermont.

3-C. SENSE MEMORY: Konstantin Stanislavsky in his method for actors, created a tool called "sense memory." The exercise enables us to retrieve feelings & sensations from past memories to generate details for writing. We will practice this activity to activate sensory details through memory. **Hugo Ventura** is a NWPNH fellow & returning fellow. He has taught English & theater & is currently a graduate student at Plymouth State University.

3-D. LOST IN A BOOK: NAVIGATING THE HISTORICAL & CULTURAL LANDSCAPES OF LITERATURE: This interactive session focuses on exploring historical moments & cultural phenomena using children's & young adult literature in secondary schools. Participants will consider texts from a variety of lenses & perspectives & learn of a curricular model designed to create units around an issue or question. **Megan Birch** teaches in the English department at Plymouth State University. She coordinates inservice programs for the NWPNH & is also currently serving as president of the New Hampshire IHE Network. **Brandon Haas** coordinates the Social Studies Education program at Plymouth State University. He serves on the board of the New Hampshire Council of the Social Studies.