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 left.

Questions? Contact Meg Petersen: megp@plymouth.edu

Conference Schedule
9:00-9:20  Registration, Coffee & Snack
9:20-9:40  Welcome & Writing Activity
9:45-10:45 Session 1
10:50-11:50 Session 2
11:50-12:30 Lunch (Prospect Dining Hall)
12:30-1:30  Session 3
1:35-2:35  Session 4
2:40-3:00 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 teachers or fewer per session.

When: Thursday, November 7, 2019
Where: Plymouth State University
Merrill Place Conference Center
Plymouth, NH

National Writing Project in New Hampshire
English Department
MSC #40
Plymouth, NH 03264

Phone: 603-535-2684
Fax: 603-535-2584
E-mail: megp@plymouth.edu

https://campus.plymouth.edu/nwpnh/
Session 1

1A. NWPNH SUMMER 2019 POST-INSTITUTE MEETING:
This is a meeting for participants in the 2019 Summer Institute.

1B. MIDDLE / HIGH VOICES—A CELEBRATION OF WRITING: NWPNH, in collaboration with the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, the nation’s longest-running and most prestigious recognition program for teens, offers NH students the opportunity to submit their work for publication. Together let’s be inspired by area writers in grades 7-12. We will explore what’s possible for your authors and share practical strategies that can be implemented in your classrooms. Ann Moller, retired from teaching high school English, is a past NWPNH Fellow and Teacher Consultant, and a Scholastic Writing Judge. Alexis Sebilian, a past NWPNH Fellow, teaches writing at Villas Middle School where student autonomy and voice drive her instruction.

1C. BLOGGING & AUDIENCE—MOTIVATING STUDENTS TO WRITE: Children are motivated to write when real audiences read their work. Learn why your students should blog as you hear about eleven years of student writing at Villas Middle School where student autonomy and voice drive her instruction. Kelly Hamilton is a past NWPNH Fellow and Teacher Consultant, and a Scholastic Writing Judge.

Session 2

2A. EMOTION IN WRITING WORKSHOP: Writing is emotional and messy. It makes us feel vulnerable which can be scary for our students, yet we ask them to do it and share it often. In this workshop, we will explore the role emotion plays in the writing classroom. Educators will put themselves in their students’ shoes and learn practical tools to encourage student voice and authenticity in writing. Kelly Hamilton is a past NWPNH Fellow who has been teaching high school English for more than a decade. She has taught in New Jersey, Arizona, and New Hampshire.

2B. KID WRITING: Kid Writing is a bridge or an on-ramp for Writer’s Workshop. Developed by a group of Writing Project Teachers in Philadelphia, it is the step before writing independently. Kid Writing provides a alternative responses to children, other than “write it as best you can or sound it out” and teaching practices grounded in research! The presenters were fortunate to go to Philadelphia this June and are eager to share resources, teaching practices, and enthusiasm for writing with children in grades K-2. Sylvia Osetick, a past NWPNH Fellow & Returning Fellow, is on the leadership team, and teaches second grade in Goffstown. Christina Lamson, a past NWPNH Fellow, Returning Fellow, staff member, & teacher-consultant, is on the leadership team. She is a library media specialist in Goffstown. Mary Lambert, a past NWPNH Fellow, teaches first and second grade at Ashland Elementary School.

2C. TEACH HOPE—TOOLS FOR POSITIVE CHANGE: Hope goes hand-in-hand with resilience, improved academic performance, motivation and social-emotional skills. Hope can be taught and encouraged in our classrooms and school communities. In this session we’ll share teaching practices, resources and research to support our students during these troubled times. This workshop is appropriate for all grades and disciplines. Gretchen Draper is a NWPNH Teacher Consultant & Level II Trainer in Kingian Nonviolence & Reconciliation. She has retired from teaching and from a long career in special education testing and consulting.

Session 3

3A. THEATRE IMPROV SCENES—INEQUALITY IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Participants will be exposed to causes and consequences of inequality in The Dominican Republic by way of improv acting scenes with predetermined situations that highlight harsh realities of the Dominican society. Hugo Ventura is a past NWPNH Fellow, Returning Fellow, and staff member. He teaches English & theater in the Dominican Republic. He recently received his M.Ed from PSU & is a certified teacher consultant.

3B. PICTURE BOOK MENTOR TEXTS: Picture books can be used for all sorts of instructional methods in a classroom. In this workshop we will explore picture book structure, format and use as mentor texts. Leave with new ideas and new titles to explore. Kari Allen teaches second grade at Sant Bani School and is a NWPNH Teacher Consultant. Her debut picture book THE BOY WHO LOVED MAPS is forthcoming from Schwartz and Wade (Penguin Random House) in 2021.

3C. NATIONAL HISTORY DAY: National History Day is a nation-wide history project competition that challenges students in middle and high school to pursue rigorous academic research and content area non-fiction writing, and to become experts on a historical topic of their own choice. This workshop will provide an introduction to this program and a platform for participants to imagine its potential in their own classrooms. Christopher Soule, a past NWPNH Fellow & Returning Fellow, teaches 7th & 8th grade Social Studies at Paul School in Wakefield. He has participated in National History Day as a volunteer and teacher since 2009.

Session 4

4A. FINDING THE HEART OF THE STORY: After three years of learning about the Bicknell’s Thrush from collaborative initiatives, the presenter had an important story to tell about a rare bird significant to NH as well as to the island of Hispaniola, where Haiti and the Dominican Republic coexist. The workshop will focus on how interdisciplinary, multi-cultural conversations related to sustainable development led to the writing of a children’s book. The writing process will be discussed in depth. Mary Ann McGarry, a past NWPNH fellow and special focus institute participant, is an environmental science teacher, as well as a Green Administrator of the Tourism, Environment and Sustainable Development Cluster at Plymouth State University.

4B. CREATING A HUMANITIES-BASED CURRICULUM: In this session, facilitators will share a planning tool through which teachers of all grades can create an integrated humanities-based curriculum. Participants will focus on creating critical questions and writing across the curriculum to support students’ learning. We will also share some units of study created by NWPNH teachers. 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. Meg Petersen is the Director of the NWPNH & a professor of English at Plymouth State University.

4C. SPINNING NARRATIVE: After discussing themes and implications in a mentor text, students identify and examine the stylistic choice authors make to help convey meaning. Students experiment with the mentor writer’s craft, and implement it in their own writing. We will practice this technique using the chapter “Spin” from Tim O’Brien’s book The Things They Carried. Mandy Tirrell, a past NWPNH Fellow, teaches English at Merrimack Valley High School.