About Us

The Kean University Writing Project offers professional development and leadership training in writing for teachers in all subject areas and at all instructional levels, k-16, throughout our area of service.

Through working with partner institutions on teaching writing and using writing to teach, the Project trains and coordinates teams of Teacher Consultants; these master teachers share their Writing Project supported expertise and excitement with fellow teachers and with those who need them most - their students.

Through building community networks, the Kean University Writing Project coordinates writing-centered pedagogies to support excellence in teaching, professional leadership, and personal growth.

For Kean University and partner institutions, our shared goal is to work with teachers as they lead their colleagues, their communities, and, most importantly, their students to experience the excitement and rewards of writing.
What do you mean writing isn’t just for English class?

“Why do I need to learn this? I’m not planning on teaching (insert subject here) when I grow up, so what’s the point?”

We’ve all heard that age-old question from our students time and time again. The bottom line is that writing isn’t explicit to the language arts curriculum anymore. In today’s elementary, middle, and high school classrooms, students are finding it more and more difficult (regardless of level) to connect the usage of mathematics or history, for example, with their practical applications in the ‘real world’. What we know from experience, students lack the ability to comprehend.

Writing organizes thinking and knowledge, aiding application and retention of information in a given class, and beyond. By utilizing writing/literature in every classroom, regardless of subject, students will have the opportunity to expand on and further develop their higher order levels of thinking. If you (the teacher) were to have a discussion with students about the problems of our economy, while introducing a recent newspaper article chock-full of facts, data, and statistics, your students would be learning several key components of multiple disciplines, all within one lesson!

Considerations...

It is important to consider the types of writing assignments your students have been exposed to, and what opportunities they’ve had to incorporate writing into a given subject area. Reflect upon the following: What have your students written outside of language arts/English and/or writing workshop? What have some of the challenges been when asking students to write in content areas other than language arts/English? The Kean University Writing Project’s workshop will help you formulate a plan for accomplishing all of your writing across the curriculum objectives.

How We Can Help...

The Kean University Writing Project is committed to helping you grow and advance in your use of writing across the disciplines. We extend an invitation for you to join us in our Writing Across the Curriculum Workshop, which will cover some of the following topics:

- Authentic student writing
- Record/synthesize/extend observations
- Content knowledge during writer’s workshop
- Student choice
- Integrating literacy into content areas through projects
- Note-taking/observation practices
- Journaling

We encourage you to let us know what topics your school may be interested in learning more about! The KUWP can tailor a workshop specifically for your needs! Please contact Linda Best at 908-737-0377 or via email at lbest@kean.edu for more information!