

# Kennesaw Mountain Writing Project

## What is the KMWP?

KMWP is a community of teachers working together to improve our craft. Crossing grade levels (k-16), counties, and subject areas, we join with the National Writing Project (<http://www.nwp.org>) as "teachers teaching teachers".



### *We Teach Teachers*

We share ways to improve writing instruction at our Summer Institute, a "day camp for teachers," where most of us first connected to KMWP. We offer Professional Development programs to schools in our service area.

### *We Inspire Students*

We produce special projects such as writing contests, festivals of student-written plays, a Saturday series on rap and poetry, a kids' writing camp, research projects for students to explore their own communities.

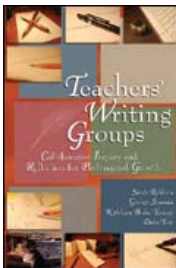


### *We Promote Leadership*

Our site provides funding and collaborative support to teachers who want to initiate new programs for students or for other teachers. Our special projects, continuity programs, and publications all grew from teachers' initiatives. KMWP awards publicize the work of educational leaders in our service area.

### *We Continue To Learn*

Small reading and writing groups have formed around a wide range of interests. We keep up with each other's research and innovations.



### *We Publish Our Work*

With peer support and professional expertise, our site has helped many teachers to publish in print and on line. Our recent publications include books, journal articles, and an online archive of innovative lesson plans. We have pooled our expertise to create Staff Development programs. All are the results of teachers' reflections on ways they've tried to improve learning in their own schools.

*Teach with us; learn with us.*

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KMWP is a group of highly dedicated individuals with a variety of talents whose unified goal is the improvement of education. We accomplish this goal through a variety of programs.

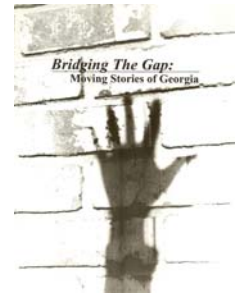


### *Annual Summer Institute*

The Summer Institute provides an opportunity each summer for teachers and teacher leaders who use writing in their work to attend a three and one-half week summer institute on the KSU campus. It is open to teachers in all subject areas and grade levels. During the institute teachers demonstrate and examine their classroom practice, study the latest research about teaching writing, develop their own writing skills, and group together for reflective dialogue.

### *Student Outreach Programs*

Through the KMWP, teacher leaders have the opportunity to create and deliver unique programs to their students. Such programs include Zsa Boykin's History of Hip Hop Initiative, the Bridges Writing Contest and the Leslie Walker Writing Contest.

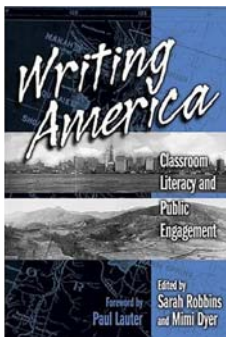


### *Professional Development*

KMWP programs are grounded in research-based practices and aligned with national and state standards for literacy learning. Our programs promote reflective practice among all teachers and academic success for all learners. Some of our programs include teacher consultants working at a local elementary school (ex. Mountain Road Elementary) to guide study of writing strategies and to support creation of a school-wide writing program, or the performance of individual workshops developed by our teacher consultants on special topics such as Blog Writing in the Classroom. We tailor our programs to the needs of the community we are serving.

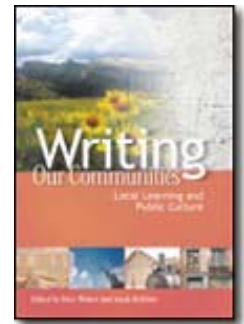
### *Special Initiative Projects*

The KMWP funds and supports special initiatives developed by its members. These initiatives can include grant applications for improving a specific school's ESL program or developing lesson plans. An example of a KMWP special initiative is the Keeping and Creating American Communities program (<http://kcac.kennesaw.edu/>)



### *Publications*

The KMWP's programs and initiatives have yielded several published works. To date, the KMWP has three published books and a multitude of articles and lesson plans. KMWP members have gone on to publish a wide variety of works including Katie Fesuk's poetry compilation, Man Martin's *Days of the Endless Corvette*, and Aaron Levy's *Pizza with Shrimp on Top*. Writing and publication at the core of our organization.



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