



Connection First:

Strategies to Build Classroom Communities

noredink



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Today



Welcome



Our Partnership Journey



Our Panel



Check-in on thinking



Research-based practice



Q & A / Feedback



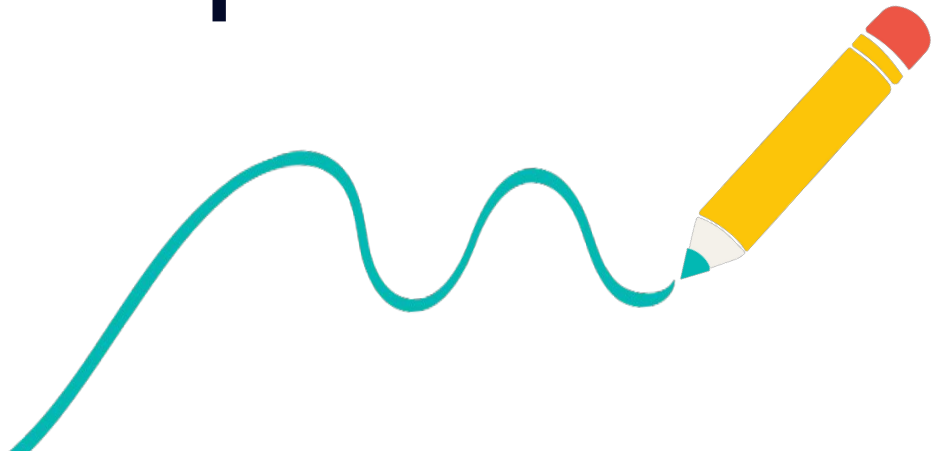


 national
writing
project + noredink



Our Mission

NoRedInk's mission is to unlock every writer's potential.





Our Mission

Through its mission, NWP focuses the knowledge, expertise, and leadership of our nation's educators on sustained efforts to help youth become successful writers and learners.



Learnings **From the Field**





**Marybeth
Baldwin**

- Teaches 8th-grade ELA in Hawai'i Technology Academy's distance program
- Department lead
- Hawai'i Writing Project Coach
- Education consultant for with Hawai'i Department of Education
- Focused on strengthening literacy, bringing effective technology into classrooms, and mentoring fellow educators



**Bryan
Gaskill**

- High school language arts teacher and literacy leader in Marshall, Missouri
- Co-Director of the Missouri Writing Project at the University of Missouri
- Ph.D. candidate at the University of Missouri
- Focused on collaborations with the National Writing Project, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and other community-based organizations



Diana Weis

- Fifth-grade Core Knowledge classroom teachers helping students connect their writing to classic literature
- Former high school English learner teacher
- Teacher consultant with the Nebraska Writing Project, leading a collaboration with the National Park Service
- Focused on connecting students to place-based writing like the National Writing Project's *Write Out* initiative

Check in

What builds Classroom Community for you?

- A) Morning meetings/check-ins:** Starting the day with connection
- B) Collaborative traditions:** Class jobs, shared rituals
- C) Student voice & choice:** Giving students a say in class norms, projects, how discussions run
- D) Celebrating individuality:** Recognizing wins, birthdays, or unique contributions from each student

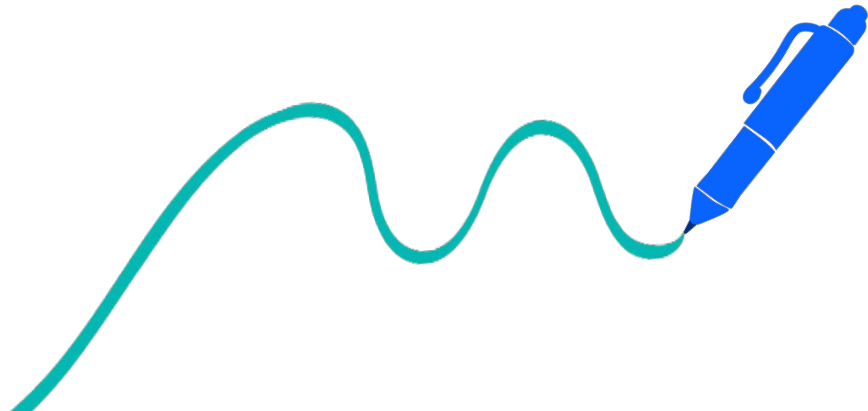
Beginning of the Year Connections

Why is it important to establish a community of writers at the beginning of the year?



Community of Writers

- Writing happens **often** and is low stakes
- Sharing at all stages and without evaluation

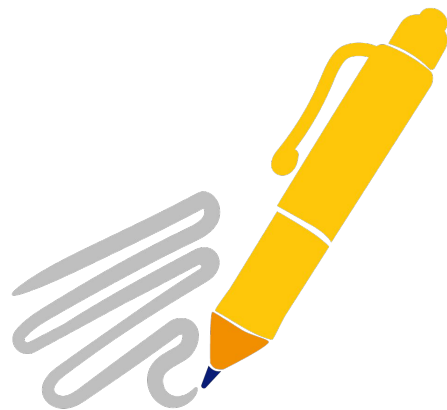


How do you make sure students are seen and known in your classroom from the beginning?



Being seen and known

- Writing Groups
- Bio Poem
- Riddles
- Teacher as a writer
- Reflective Writing
- Silhouette



How do you utilize
face-to-face conversations
to establish belonging?



Face-to-Face Conversations

- Choose a line
- Protocols
- Think Pair Share
- Sentence Starters
- Student led writing conferences
- Talking before writing
- Identity webs before talking



What are you most excited
about this school year?



Diana Weis

Excitement for a new year

“If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in.”

Rachel Carson

Check in

Which one of these ideas
would you like to try?

Feedback & Next Steps

Scan here to take
our quick survey!



Q & A

Kids need a



Helpful Resources

Opportunities for Professional Growth

- [The National Writing Project](#)
- [Write Now Teacher Studio](#)
- [NoRedInk Webinars](#)

Writing Resources

- [Writing Lessons](#) from NCTE
- NoRedInk [Daily Prompts](#)
- [PromptWise](#) by Serena Morales - classroom ideas, teacher strategies and evidence-based resources that leverage generative AI



Helpful Resources

Texts or strategies mentioned in the webinar

- [Building Executive Function in the Middle Grades](#) by Susanne Croasdaile
- Silhouette idea came from Stephen Tchudi's [Exploring and Teaching the English Language Arts](#)
- [16 Variations on Think-Pair-Share to Keep Students Engaged](#) By Todd Finley
- [Better Writing Response Groups](#) by Tara Barnett and Kate Mills
- [Bio Poems](#) by Jeanine Schneider
- [Why Teachers Need to Write with Students](#) by Stacey Shubitz
- [Thinking Routines](#) at Harvard's Project Zero
- [Writing Conferences](#) at Reading Rockets
- [Oral Language Supports Writing Development: How Bolstering Conversations Builds Power and Voice](#) at Teachers College
- [Identity webs](#) by Two Writing Teachers

