

# Professional Development Workshops

Quality Professional development for area teachers is a central goal for both the Saginaw Bay Writing Project and the Saginaw Valley Literacy Center.

Since its beginnings in 1993, the Saginaw Bay Writing Project (SBWP) has worked to promote excellence in the teaching of writing and practice of writing throughout the Mid-Michigan area, fulfilling the philosophy of the National Writing Project with a “teachers teaching teachers” model.

SBWP hosts an annual Summer Invitational Institute, where teachers have the opportunity to become versed in best practice, grow as writers themselves, and develop the skills they need to become teacher leaders in their own districts. SBWP also offers Advanced Institutes, provides outreach to area schools, offers a variety of best practice workshops, sponsors writing marathons, publishes teacher and student writing anthologies, and consults with area districts to guide teacher professional development.

The Saginaw Valley Literacy Center (LC) was started in 2006 to provide a high quality reading and writing clinic that supports struggling K-12 readers and writers and offers enrichment experiences for all K-12 students. It has branched out to offer professional development for teachers in the areas of reading and writing.

The SVSU Literacy Center works to support educators in developing professional knowledge, skills and dispositions related to teaching and learning in a diverse society.

## Mission Statements

### Saginaw Bay Writing Project

- Develop a network of effective teachers who share their successes
- Foster a community of teachers who are also writers
- Encourage personal and professional growth in the teaching of writing
- Improve the writing of Michigan students at all levels

For more information contact:  
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### Literacy Center

- Support educator collaboration and networking
- Partner with schools to support research-based instruction in K-12 classrooms
- Provide literacy-related resources, support, and networking opportunities for families
- Provide opportunities for research and professional development

For more information contact:  
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- SBWP = Saginaw Bay Writing Project – Contact Elaine Hunyadi
- LC = Literacy Center – Contact Melissa Kaczmarek

## *Author's Craft*

Bev Matulis **K-8**

When the Six Traits of Writing are paired with a study of the elements of Author's Craft, students gain rich insight into the strategies that authors use to create high quality writing. This workshop illustrates how Author's Craft strategies can lift student writing achievement to new heights.

## *Engaging Minds*

Bev Matulis **K-8**

Many teachers find that today's students are not used to thinking for themselves. This presentation will demonstrate writing strategies that help students learn how to process information and become interactive learners.

## *Literature in the Writing Workshop*

Gillan Markey **K-8**

A fun-filled, informative and practical workshop explores the use of short texts and picture books in writing workshop, focusing on ways mentor texts can be used throughout the writing process from pre-writing to drafting to revising. Teachers will use literature to generate and develop ideas, then explore ways to "mine" mentor texts for mini-lessons about organization and writer's craft.

## *Six Traits in the Classroom*

Bob Pawlak/Janet Sopczynski **K-8**

This workshop will guide teachers through the process of implementing the 6 Traits in the K-8 classroom. The Six Traits foster conversations in the classroom about writing. Students learn how to critique their own and others' writing using a rubric and a common, content-specific language.

## *Details with the STAR Strategy*

Amber White **K-8**

STAR is an acronym for the four revision/craft techniques that writers can utilize to move their paper to a more developed piece. This strategy helps students understand the complexity of revision and increases awareness of choices available in the revision process.

## *Vivid Voice in Writing*

Theresa Rae **K-8**

If you're having a hard time teaching voice, this session is for you. A variety of sources and lessons will be presented to help students bring voice to their writing. Through poetry, short excerpts, and a game, students will be able to understand, use, and discuss voice. Lessons can be adapted to any grade level.

## *Creating Character*

Bev Matulis **K-8**

Sample pieces from published authors can help students discover the techniques that authors use to create vivid characters.

## *Dancing with the Authors*

Beverly Matulis **K-8**

Teach sentence fluency by having students study favorite authors and learn to create beautiful sentences that guide the reader across the page.

## *Poetry*

Bob Pawlak **K-8**

"Poetry, Like Bread is for Everyone." Poetry is a genre that is part of the GLCE, but some are not comfortable teaching. Don't wait until "poetry month" to model and teach poetry. This workshop offers practical lessons that can be utilized throughout the school year to increase the comfort level of teachers who work with poetry.

## *Writing With Details*

Janet Sopczynski **K-8**

This workshop presents ways to address one of the most commented areas of need in student writing – examples and details. Participants will explore a variety of methods to teach students to write and revise with attention to examples and details.

### *Writing Workshop*

Melissa Kaczmarek

**K-8**

This workshop includes a rationale for using writing workshop in the K-8 classroom; examples of how to set up a writing workshop; instruction on using the Six Traits to supplement the writing workshop; examples of quality literature to use in writing workshop; and a follow-up session to address questions and concerns regarding implementing writing workshop in a K-8 classroom.



### *Persuasive Writing*

Lisa Midcalf

**K-12**

This workshop explores persuasive writing using the writing process. A variety of writing activities will be presented to motivate and encourage students as well as teachers to develop their persuasive writing skills.

### *Narrowing the Writer's Focus*

Amber White

**K-8**

Powerful writing is often concise and focused. Placing emphasis on ideas, the foundational trait, can result in some amazing progress. Participants will learn how to use the Funnel & Drip organizer as a strategy to help students narrow their broad ideas to specific, focused, essential moments. Participants will also explore "Ba-Da-Bings" as a way to create interesting details for key moments, as well as how to use the *Chicken Dance* to teach dialogue as "dessert" for good writing.

# Writing Across the Curriculum

### *Constructed Response In Math and Science*

Bob Pawlak

**K-12**

What is constructed response? How can you make it work in non-ELA settings? Writing across the curriculum does not have to be a stressful endeavor. This workshop will discuss writing prompts and other strategies that can be used to get students comfortable with putting their thoughts into words. Strategies can be used in both Math and Science, to promote deeper thinking and understanding.

### *Create a Building Writing Plan*

Janet Sopczynski/Elaine Hunyadi

**K-12**

This workshop will look at all of the important components of writing and create a grade-level or school-wide plan for writing. Based on areas of need from the MEAP, GLCEs, best practices for writing, current building practice, and input from staff, the group will create a short-term and long-range plans.

### *Vocabulary Instruction*

Joan Anderson

**K-12**

This presentation will highlight best practices in vocabulary instruction. Participants will explore a variety of methods and plans for vocabulary instruction in the classroom.

### *Writing Across the Curriculum*

Janet Sopczynski

**K-12**

This workshop is designed to explore a multitude of strategies for teachers in all content areas to use to integrate writing into the classroom.

### ***MEAP Practice to Practice All Year***

Elaine Hunyadi **3-8**

This workshop helps teachers and students to understand that test preparation is truly grounded in best practice. Participants are guided through two MEAP preparation guides, The First Ten Days of Writing and The Second Ten Days of Writing. Discussion topics include analyzing writing prompts, comparing rubrics for common language, examining and practicing writer's craft, and getting students to write that "great first draft." Ultimately, it is the writing workshop model that develops proficient writers.

### ***Success on State Assessments***

Bev Matulis **K-8**

This presentation will help elementary and middle school students achieve success on state writing assessments. It will provide strategies for prewriting, as well as ideas about how to use author's craft to help students revise their writing.

### ***MEAP Writing***

Janet Sopczynski **3-8**

Participants will learn more about the three writing pieces required on the MEAP test. The focus will be on looking at the components of the writing tasks, deepening understanding by analyzing the rubric and student work, and learning about lessons for the classroom.

### ***Reading Assessment***

Literacy Center Staff **K-12**

This workshop includes a variety of research-based assessment tools for use with K-8 students. Instruction is given on how to use the assessment tools, and lesson strategies and materials are provided for each area.

### ***MME Writing***

Janet Sopczynski **9-12**

A workshop designed for participants to look closely at the tasks of the MME, ACT writing and Civic writing - and learn to apply and integrate important lessons into the classroom.

### ***Writing for Stamina and Assessment***

Lynn Kidwell **K-8**

Participants will become familiar with Type One and Type Two of the Collins Writing Program (Collins Education Associates LLC). Type One Writing gets students to put their ideas on paper through prompts or brainstorming techniques. This type of writing is timed and requires a minimum number of lines or items. Type Two Writing shows what the writer knows about a specific topic. It is a correct answer to a specific question and can be used as a pre-assessment to guide your teaching or as a quiz to check for understanding. Both Type One and Type Two Writing require approximately ten to fifteen minutes of the day. Both types have been shown to be successful and enjoyable for students.

### ***Collaborative Scoring***

Joan Anderson **K-12**

This workshop will provide the guidelines for collaborative scoring. Participants will use rubrics to score student samples of writing.

### ***Book Leveling***

Dr. Gretchen Owocki **K-5**

This workshop includes a rationale for using leveled books in the elementary classroom; examples of high-quality leveled books for K-5 students; instruction on how to level books; and a follow-up leveling workshop for teachers to gain experience and fine tune their skills. Fountas and Pinnell's leveling system is used. A comparison chart for other leveling systems is provided.

### ***Scoring With Rubrics***

Amber White **K-8**

Participants will explore the benefits of having common language to analyze, discuss, and score student writing samples. Questions to frame thinking when assessing a paper will be presented. Guidance provided in how to use analytic trait-descriptors and scoring to give meaningful, specific feedback that has a positive effect on revision and classroom instruction. A data collection framework will be shared.

### *Differentiated Instruction*

Joan Anderson K-12

This workshop will provide instructional strategies to address student differences and an overview of what differentiated instruction is and is not. Participants will learn and apply instructional strategies that will help them in the beginning stages of implementing differentiated instruction in their classrooms.

### *Working with English Language Learners*

Melissa Kaczmarek K-8

This workshop includes a variety of strategies designed for English Language Learners as well as pertinent background information on the most common recent immigrant cultures in the area. Follow-up support will be provided.

### *Writing in Special Education Classes*

Lynn Kidwell & Holly Shorkey K-12

This presentation is designed to help inspire special education students to get their thoughts on paper in a fun, non-threatening way. Through a variety of strategies, special education students can come to enjoy writing.

# Reading

### *Study and Reference Strategies*

Dr. Susie Emond K-8

This workshop includes appropriate strategies to teach throughout the grades, including main idea, summarizing, note-taking, skimming, and scanning. Reference strategies include the use of a table of contents, glossary, table, graph, dictionary, and more. Text features and organization are important for students and need to be taught early in school.

### *Content Area Literacy Strategies*

Literacy Center Staff K-12

This workshop includes a variety of strategies proven to deepen student understanding of content area concepts. Text strategies and graphic organizers will be explained and emphasized. Follow-up support will be provided.

### *Small Group Instruction That Works*

Melissa Kaczmarek K-5

This workshop includes a rationale for using guided reading groups; practical ideas for small group instruction based on K-3 student needs; quality literature to use at appropriate reading levels; and suggested literacy experiences for other students during group reading time.

### *Children's Literature and the Elementary Teacher*

Lisa Midcalf K-5

What is in your classroom library? This workshop explores the wonderful world of children's literature and its many uses in the elementary classroom. Topics of discussion include content area reading, poetry, informational books, multicultural books, and books for pure enjoyment.



# Instructors

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**Joan Anderson**  
K-12ELA Implementor  
Bay City Public Schools

**Dr. Gretchen Owocki**  
Professor of Teacher Education  
SVSU

**Dr. Susie Emond**  
Professor of Teacher Education  
SVSU

**Bob Pawlak**  
Content Coach  
Bay City Public Schools

**Elaine Hunyadi**  
Assistant Director  
Saginaw Bay Writing Project  
English Department Faculty, SVSU

**Theresa Rae**  
Middle School Teacher  
North Branch Public Schools

**Melissa Kaczmarek**  
Director, Literacy Center  
SVSU

**Sarah Richard**  
Elementary School Teacher  
Bay City Public Schools

**Lynn Kidwell**  
Elementary School Teacher  
Bay City Public Schools

**Janet Sopczynski (retired)**  
K12 ELA Consultant, District ELA Implementor  
Literacy Coach  
Bay City Public Schools

**Gillan Markey**  
English Department Faculty  
SVSU

**Amber White**  
Literacy Coach  
North Branch Public Schools

**Bev Matulis**  
National Board Certified Teacher  
Bay City Public Schools

**Lisa Midcalf**  
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To register for workshops contact:

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- Literacy Center (LC) –Melissa Kaczmarek [mak@svsu.edu](mailto:mak@svsu.edu)

