

MFA in Professional Writing Enrichment Project Proposal

Each student will propose, design, complete, and make a presentation (written or otherwise) of a project which is not part of the academic sequence but which enriches the individual as a writer.

The enrichment project should be self-contained in the sense that it should not be a portion of or an early version of your thesis project. The enrichment project should not simply involve writing a text such as a novel, screenplay, book of poems, etc. Ideally, it will involve acquiring skills either parallel to writing, pre-writing, or post-writing, that would assist one in maintaining a writing career.

For example, the project might be to learn a foreign language, to establish a small writing services company, to learn web development, or to help a charitable organization in starting a newsletter.

The project presentation must involve some kind of documentation of the experience, such as a half-hour lecture at a residency, a capstone paper, an article for publication, an ongoing journal, or a series of short essays. The MFA Coordinator will review the enrichment project proposal and presentation.

Please complete this form and return it to the MFA Coordinator. The form must arrive in the MFA office (Brian Clements, English Dept., Western Connecticut State University, 181 White St., Danbury, CT 06810) no later than Sept. 15.

You may use the back of this page if necessary.

Brief Description of Project: Become a member of Toastmasters International — a club that teaches one public speaking through the use of manuals, peer evaluation, and practical experience giving speeches.

Goal of Project: To become more comfortable with public speaking, ultimately to be able to present myself as a writer to groups.

Means of Achieving the Goal: Attending biweekly club meetings and giving speeches that conform to Toastmaster's guidelines (of length, etc) and acting as evaluator for others who speak.

Description of the Presentation: Student will give a 20-30 minute oral presentation about her experiences at Toastmasters when the project is completed.

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Student Name: _____

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Brief Description of Project: To host a writer's group for 6th-8th graders at Two Rivers Magnet Middle School for African-American and Latino students.

Goal of Project: To assist young writers with works-in-progress and publish a literary journal of their work (art & prose.)

Means of Achieving the Goal: Weekly 45-minute meetings with core writers, establishing a reading board, including the visual artists in the design of the journal. Purchase design software.

Description of the Presentation: PowerPoint presentation, hard copy of end product for show.

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Brief Description of Project: I will teach a creative writing class at The Laurels, an assisted living center in Asheville, North Carolina.

Goal of Project: Students will be enriched and will relate to their lives and the world around them through writing.

Means of Achieving the Goal: Each week I will bring a variety of writing exercises that will deepen my students' understanding of writing and that will encourage them to write. Once a month, we will workshop the students' writing.

Description of the Presentation: I will have examples of student writing, tapes of them reading their writing, and possibly a literary magazine that my students produced.

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Brief Description of Project: Student will take lessons on the guitar.

Goal of Project: The goal is to initiate learning to play the guitar.

Means of Achieving the Goal: Taking lessons and daily practice and study.

Description of the Presentation: Student will play guitar for the MFA attendees.

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Brief Description of Project: To learn conversational sign language.

Goal of Project: To become fluent in sign language so that I may communicate with hearing impaired people. I feel that learning sign language will benefit me as a poet because it will change the way in which I use words, instead thinking in symbols. Learning sign language would be comparable to learning, say Polish, and then working on a translation.

Means of Achieving the Goal: Taking at least one course at Gateway Community College in New Haven, CT.

Description of the Presentation: To give a poetry reading both spoken and signed. I could present at the residency, or I could see if the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford, CT would allow me to give a reading to their students.

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