

Improving Thinking and Comprehension

June 16-20, 2008
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
WMU Campus

Applications now being accepted!

(See Reverse for Application)

The Third Coast Writing Project is a program of the English Department and the College of Arts & Sciences at Western Michigan University



What is the Improving Thinking Workshop?

The Improving Thinking and Comprehension Summer Workshop features teaching strategies that are relevant to all content areas (social studies, science, writing, reading, technology, etc.), all grade levels, and all of Michigan's new mandates. We will read the latest research on thinking and comprehension, and we'll develop plans, strategies, and classroom-ready curricular materials that will work at specific grade levels.

When and Where?

The Improving Thinking Workshop will meet Monday-Friday, June 16-20, 2008 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) on the campus of WMU. Complimentary parking will be provided. A Saturday Summer Preview meeting will introduce the workshop and research. It will include a complimentary light breakfast and lunch. Following the close of the Invitational Institute, participants will be invited to attend follow-up sessions and to participate actively in TCWP programs and leadership opportunities.

What will we get out of it?

During these sessions, we will:

- Learn from expert presenters in the field of thinking and comprehension;
- Become conversant about current research on teaching comprehension and thinking skills in the content areas;
- Develop lesson plans that feature research-based strategies and activities and that can be applied directly to our classrooms—and shared with our colleagues.
- Use independent study time for our own research on the topic;
- Leave with a basketful of research-based strategies and activities polished and ready to be used in our own classrooms; and
- Expand our network of professional contacts and colleagues.

Who should apply?

The seminar is designed to address the needs of all content area teachers; reading, literacy, and curriculum specialists; and any k-college educator interested in enhancing students' thinking skills.

Who are the leaders?

Pam Rickli, secondary reading specialist at Loy Norrix High School (Kalamazoo Public Schools), previously worked at Comstock Public Schools, where she helped develop a comprehensive reading and writing program, grades 3-8. Her Third Coast Writing Project professional development work has taken her to a number of southwest Michigan districts to support teachers as they learn to use the latest research to teach reading, writing, and thinking strategies in all parts of the curriculum.

Scott Peterson is an Instructional Support Specialist at Mattawan Consolidated School and has presented a wide range of school-based Third Coast Writing Project workshops in Southwest Michigan School districts. He is also a talented writer whose poetry has been published in *Plains Song Review* (University of Nebraska Press, 2002). He has published articles about teaching and learning in *The Quarterly*, and *The Voice* (publications of the National Writing Project (Berkeley, CA). He also co-authored, with Constance Weaver, *Theme Exploration: A Voyage of Discovery* (Heinemann, 1993).

How much does it cost? Can I get graduate credit?

Registration is \$350 for Michigan teachers. Participants may earn CEUs or two WMU graduate credits with additional cost.

Application

2008 Improving Thinking and Comprehension

Throughout the Curriculum and within a MEAP/ACT/MME/GLCE Michigan World

June 16-18, 2008

Please send your completed application
(keep a copy of this flyer and application) by April 1, 2008.

To help us plan, please send us a brief note telling us about your teaching experience
and your specific interests related to the seminar topic.

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

School Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School Phone: _____

Grade(s) and Subject(s) Currently Teaching _____

Make check payable to "Third Coast Writing Project"
and mail with this application to:

Dr. Ellen Brinkley, Director
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Phone: 269-387-2581
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<http://www.wmich.edu/thirdcoastwp>

Still Undecided?

What teachers are saying about Improving Thinking and Comprehension...

"Best workshop I ever took. A must-take for all content
teachers because the strategies are effective
ways to engage students in all topics."
—Social Studies teacher, Plainwell Middle

"Reading and getting the chance to 'talk through' the books we read
together this summer changed the way I approached the teaching of
English language arts. I started the school year
shaping my students to be thinkers."
—Washington Writers' Academy (KPS)

"Great information—practical, research-based info for
deepening student understanding of thinking, writing, reading skills.
Useful across the curriculum and
across skill levels and grade levels."
—St. Joseph High School teacher