

T&W Blackboard

WordPlay, a new blog from the University of Arizona Poetry Center

WordPlay provides a rich resource for the teaching of creative writing in schools and in the community. Described as “a space for parents, teachers, and community artists who inspire others with language,” the blog features writing exercises, book reviews, student poetry and prose, news, and stories from the classroom.

WordPlay is currently seeking submissions for the blog that describe specific teaching experiences in “real time.” The editors are looking for experiences that are relatively current, from teaching artists who are experimenting with new sources of inspiration, and from teachers trying new things to meet the challenges of teaching today’s students how to write. Submissions should describe hands-on, real-life experiences that will inspire others to be daring with their approach to creative writing.

To view the blog and see submission guidelines, go to blog.ltc.arizona.edu/wordplay.

WITS at the 2011 AWP Conference

The Writers-in-the-Schools (WITS) Alliance invites you to join them at the panel sessions they will sponsor at the February 2011 AWP Conference in Washington, DC.

We Were All Poets in the 3rd Grade: What Happened?: Investigating why K–12 students go from a willingness to engage in creative writing to being afraid or indifferent, and best teaching practices to re-engage students.

Paths of Passion: WITS Links to University Teaching and Writing Career: How does WITS experience help writers get jobs as professors, shape their teaching, and nurture their own writing?

A Classroom as Big as the World: Highlights from programs that take kids out of the box of the classroom to get them out of the box with their writing.

Camps: Artful Paths for Summer Income: Strategies for summer programs that help students experience writing as fun while providing work for writers and generating income for WITS organizations.

Poetry and Partnership: The Critical Elements for Writers-in-the-Schools Programs: Exploring the importance to WITS programs of strong relationships with board members, funders, and key decision-makers for school districts.

Realities of the Classroom: Personalities and Boundaries: How do teaching artists create constructive boundaries with students, while navigating gender, race, class, and age in ways that respect both classroom legalities and students’ rights?

For more information about these panels and a full listing of WITS events during AWP, please see the conference program book, or stop by the WITS Alliance booth, #307 in the AWP Bookfair.

The e-mail address is letters@twc.org. Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, Teachers & Writers magazine, 520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 2020, New York, NY 10018. All letters should include the writer’s name, address, and daytime telephone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We are unable to acknowledge or return unpublished letters.