

Introduction

Paul Epstein

The teachers whose writing appears on the following pages have shown considerable commitment to their professional development. During four weeks in the Summer of 2005, they met at Saint Albans High School for 6 hours each day to write, share their best practices in the teaching of writing, participate in writing workshops with CWVWP teacher consultants, author Sarah Sullivan, poet Barbara Tramoto, and read about and discuss research about the teaching of writing. Teachers of first through high school level and the content areas, experienced and less experienced were all part of the mix.

Because we believe that teachers of writing must share the experience they ask of their students, teachers wrote every day on a variety of topics, shared their writing in small groups, with partners, or to the whole group on occasion, and together experienced the joys and struggles that writers experience when a community with a variety of viewpoints and abilities are thrown together such as happens in their classrooms. This was not an easy or natural task for some. An important part of our work is to help teachers overcome the fear and anxiety that the prospect of a writing assignment often brings.

We publish this anthology because we believe it contains work of value. If you read these stories, poems, and opinion pieces, you will get a sense of what may be going on in the lives and minds of the teachers around you. We learned much about each other in this intensive experience and, as so often happens in our Summer Institutes, created a bond that will last far into the future.

If you know these teachers, please ask them about their experience. If you don't, and want to know more, visit us on the web at www.marshall.edu/mugc/cwvwp or contact Barbara Holmes at MUGC: holmes26@marshall.edu or Paul Epstein, pepstein@access.k12.wv.us.