

IAWP ISAW 2023: REINVIGORATING THE NEGLECTED NARRATIVE

Considering the emphasis on expository and argumentative writing in secondary and post-secondary courses, narrative, memoir, and biography are taught as an afterthought or not at all. Furthermore, as a genre narrative is often viewed as superfluous and not what students need for real life or career and college preparedness. This could not be further from the truth, for narrative has practical applicability across multiple other genres and disciplines. More importantly, if we, as educators, are truly intent on fostering social justice and equity in our classrooms, institutions, and beyond, supporting students in discovering and telling their own stories is of paramount importance—and should not be neglected.

In this four-part workshop participants will:

1. investigate the multiple roles that narrative serves across genres;
2. re-configure plotlines ranging from chronological to dynamic and non-linear;
3. develop strategies to "show" character and action rather than "tell" about them;
4. create authentic dialogue that explicates and expands on the narrative.

Join us for a journey into narrative. Though each workshop can stand on its own, each session informs the overall theme: Reinventing the Neglected Narrative.

Workshop Schedule & Course Descriptions:

(Monday, January 23, 2023, 4:30 PM) Session 1 - Across Genres: Reimagining Your Stories in Expository, Argument, and Other Types of Writing: From the traditional "hook" to the full-fledged anecdote example, narrative and its concomitant strategies can be found hiding in plain sight in most material we read. In this interactive workshop, participants will "look" for and explore how narrative is deployed across genres, with a focus on expository and argumentative uses. We will scaffold pathways for students to discover and develop their voice by utilizing narrative devices to explore, express, and explain their personal experience in support of their arguments. Participants will gain an appreciation for the multiple uses of narrative and an array of strategies for making writing more dynamic and interesting.

(Monday, January 30, 2023, 4:30 PM) Session 2 - The What and the When: Developing Dynamic Plotlines: Dynamic storylines can be an element that commands the reader's attention and sustains interest in a story. From linear storytelling to montage methods to in medias res, the techniques to alter story/anecdote sequences are myriad. In this interactive workshop, participants will explore different storytelling strategies and uses of plotlines through critically reading mentor texts, practicing how to integrate mentor texts into their instruction, and writing their own story variations starters using plotline scaffolds.

(Monday, February 6, 2023, 4:30 PM) Session 3 - From Narration to Reflection: Using "Show" Techniques for Personal Journeys: Showing-rather-than-telling profoundly affects the impact of anecdotes/stories across genres, especially autobiography, exposition, and argumentation. In this interactive workshop, participants will explore strategies that transform the average anecdote of "I studied really hard for my anatomy test, but I was still not prepared" to "It was 3am, and I looked through bleary eyes at the colorful anatomy diagrams. I couldn't tell a clavicle from a femur. What could I do?" Furthermore, participants will acquire scaffolds to help students discover and explain the "significance" of their examples in their writing.

(Monday, February 13, 2023, 4:30 PM) Session 4 - Let's Get Talking: Dynamic Dialogue that Supports Narrative Development: Dialogue is not simply for movie scripts. It can fulfill important roles of assisting in character development, adding necessary narrative details, and propelling the plot forward. In this interactive workshop, participants will utilize mentor texts to compare/contrast effective and ineffective dialogue, create "authentic" exchanges, and examine the use of home languages in narrative to make dialogue sing.

Presenters: Ninetta Papadomichelaki, J.D., LL.M., M.Ed. & Lash Keith Vance, Ph.D., M.A., M.Ed, M.S.IDT.

Workshops are free!
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