



## Monthly Newsletter

Issue 20: February 2015

### News Updates

**February Saturday Seminar:** On February 28, 2015 MTWP will host its second Saturday Seminar. This 3-hour interactive workshop (9:00-noon) is entitled “Writing in the Content Areas: Social Studies and Language Arts in the Middle School” and will take place in the College of Education Building (COE) Room 244. Social studies and language arts teachers will learn strategies for collaborating as they help students write in both areas. The seminar will be co-led by a social studies teacher and a language arts teacher who have partnered in their school to integrate writing in the content areas. Content area teachers are welcome. To register, go to [www.middletnwritingproject.org/professional-development](http://www.middletnwritingproject.org/professional-development).

**The Deadline for Applying for ISI is February 28!** If you would like to become a teacher consultant by attending the Invitational Summer Institute, please apply online at <http://www.middletnwritingproject.org/isi/isi-application>. The 2015 Invitational Summer Institute will be June 8-19 (Monday through Friday) from 8:00-3:30. A pre-institute and follow-up meetings during the following school year are also required.

**Nominate!** If you are a teacher consultant and you have a colleague or colleagues who have the potential to be teacher leaders and would benefit from attending the Invitational Summer Institute, please send your nominations to [Ellen.Donovan@mtsu.edu](mailto:Ellen.Donovan@mtsu.edu).

**Save the Date!** The annual MTWP Fall Conference will be September 12, 2015. Join other teachers from Middle Tennessee as we learn multiple strategies for the classroom (K-12) that we can implement immediately.

### Teacher Feature

Jennie Czarneski (ISI 2007) is a Reading Specialist/Literacy Coach at Scales Elementary School in Brentwood. She loves teaching poetry, especially writing poetry, because that is one of her favorite genres to write in herself. Her favorite aspect of teaching is watching a struggling student finally understand/comprehend. In her words, “He stands just a little taller and smiles just a little wider.” A new approach that she has taken in helping other teachers is a strategy by Jeff Anderson called Mentor Sentences. Students hear and examine good literature with rich text then attempt to understand it and reproduce it in some way in their own writing. It’s been an exciting process and the students really enjoy trying to improve on the author’s work. Jennie, her husband Joey, and their son Ryan (age 10) spend their free time playing hockey and attending hockey games.

