About the Instructors

Central Park, Stanley Waterfront, the Middle School bench, your balcony, my swimming pool, Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, Istanbul, Philadelphia... since 1984 we’ve been talking about writing and writing about talking - about how we don’t know what we think till we see what we say... and leading workshops together.

Aeons ago when Australian artist John Olsen taught a children’s art class, he asked a six year old boy what he was doing. “I’m drawing my think”, the child replied.

That’s what I try to do, says Olsen, now 83. I’m painting my think.*

That’s us too. We write our think, and that’s how we teach our students. Write your think. Be honest. Be specific. Write your think. First. Nail your think and all the rest will follow.

And while we are closer to 83 than we used to be, 30 years ago, when we first planned on that Middle school bench in Kuala Lumpur and designed a Humanities program together... we are still writing our think into understanding, and this is what we know to be true:

- That engagement is central to learning
- That writing is primarily communication
- That we learn to write by writing
- That writing is a process and a work in progress
- That writing is integrally connected with reading, speaking and listening
- That skills are best learned in context
- That writing is a valuable tool for learning
- And that we must give time to what we value

Teachers are agents of change, opportunity providers, door openers... the writers must walk through themselves.

Come and join us this summer - and you will write your think and see for yourself how this works.

* The Olsen anecdote comes from an interview with the artist by Janet Hawley in SMH, December 10, 2011
About this workshop

The EAWP Writing Workshop is a practical, interactive writing course for teachers and students. The workshop focuses on the development of confident, independent writers, joining teachers and students in a common course, with some separate specialized modules.

Pedagogical modules for teachers include organization strategies for creating a writing workshop in your classroom, teaching writing in context with appropriate and efficient response, teaching students how to be effective responders, and designing assignment-specific assessment strategies.

Student modules teach participants how to transfer writing strategies for narrative and personal pieces to other forms and genre, with a focus on writing on demand – exams, college applications, SAT writing samples and academic essays for any discipline.

What you will take away from this workshop

For yourself . . .
As a workshop participant you will learn how to write for a variety of purposes and how to respond to the writing of others. This process is invigorating and practical. Three of your pieces will be published. You will leave with strategies to encourage you to continue writing.

For your students . . .
Because you will be part of a positive learning and writing environment you will develop the skills and strategies to create one in your own classroom.

You will understand the significance of the reading-writing connection and learn how to use texts – literary, historical, scientific – effectively and appropriately in any class, and any grade level.

You will learn how to build community in a multicultural and multilingual classroom and how to encourage less confident writers, and second language learners.

You will be able to show students how to use writing as a tool for their own learning.

You will learn how to generate student collaboration and effective response groups in your classroom.

For your school...
You will develop the skills to present effective workshops for school audiences - your department or team, your faculty, parent groups, and for professional conferences.

What you will do every day

You will write
….read….listen….talk….question….collaborate.

Write: reflections, drafts, maps, questions, revisions, dialogues, interview write-ups, feature articles, professional pieces, personal narratives, poems, marginal notes, annotations

Read: articles, professional writing, excerpts from literature, interviews, other participants’ pieces, course materials, your work

Talk and ask questions: about yourself, your writing, your colleagues’ writing, your teaching of writing, the course materials, your opinions

Listen and respond to other participants writing, learn mirroring and talk back techniques

No other course I've taken has enabled me to walk straight back into the classroom and directly apply everything I've learned. . . Practical, fun, challenging, thought-provoking, real ...
-Teacher, Seoul Foreign School

The course brought together the lessons needed for writing and the fun that you are supposed to have while learning. It gave me the opportunity to share my writing with others, learn more and ultimately become a stronger writer.
-HKIS student

What students and teachers say about this workshop

EAWP was a fun and engaging course, which helped me realize how much I love writing. It gave me new insights into writing techniques that have made me a better writer. Working with a diverse group of people who all had a common goal was a great experience.
-HKIS student

Safe – parameters set from the beginning
Encouraging
Room for playfulness
Non-judgmental - only questioning, responding to meaning
Casual approach yet focused
Pace perfect: deadlines within support structures; each writing task broken up into stages of development.
-Teacher, Beijing International School