

CALIFORNIA Writing PROJECT



Writing is pivotal to learning. No matter what students are studying, they benefit when they use writing to understand concepts, solve problems, communicate ideas and make sense of what they read and learn. The mission of the **California Writing Project (CWP)** is to improve student writing and learning by improving the teaching of writing.

The goals and strategies that follow are at the heart of every CWP program:

- Concentrating efforts in regions where literacy is most in jeopardy
- Engaging students in the ever-evolving work of writing — in school and college, in the workplace and community
- Promoting and fostering social justice and educational equity
- Emphasizing instructional approaches for developing the writing and reading skills of multilingual learners
- Supporting teachers as they prepare students to meet and exceed California standards
- Serving California teachers, students, schools and districts through a model of university-school collaboration

TEACHER LEADERSHIP

CWP sites conduct Invitational Leadership Institutes in the Teaching of Writing that prepare teacher leaders through intensive inquiry into effective writing and assessment practices, supporting research and the student writing that results. Teacher leaders write to gain firsthand experience in the writing they teach and the interventions students need to improve their writing. Through ongoing leadership development programs, teacher leaders create and lead professional learning opportunities for their colleagues that address school and district needs: linking district curricula to California standards; assessing writing to inform instruction; improving argument writing for college, career and community readiness; and teaching writing with digital tools.

Each year, over 2,000 CWP teacher leaders engage in a variety of leadership activities:

- Classroom coaching and mentoring
- School-based professional learning communities
- Youth writing academies

- Family literacy programs

PROGRAMS

CWP collaborates with schools and districts to tailor professional development programs to the local needs of students, teachers and administrators. Some programs offered across our network include:

- **Composing and Computing Collaborative (CCC)**, which uses teacher-led inquiry to advance expertise in the integration of Computer Science in the writing classroom
- **Environmental Literacy and Justice (ELAJ) Collaborative**, which empowers teachers to address local environmental issues through the development of classroom curricula
- **Focused Book Studies**, which promote teachers' development of content and pedagogical knowledge through the intense, sustained study of professional texts
- **Lab Schools**, which provide unique opportunities for teachers and students to work side by side, honing their writing craft, through writing workshops and classes led by professional authors
- **New Teacher Institutes**, which support novice teachers through collaborative research, reflective learning cycles, and mentoring by veteran Writing Project Fellows
- **Racial Justice Action Group (RJAG)**, which focuses on fighting systemic racism through the integration of anti-racist pedagogies within teachers' practice
- **Writing and Ethnic Studies Together (Project WEST)**, which strengthens teachers' capacity to effectively teach Ethnic Studies (ES) through building collective knowledge of ES and the ways in which writing is integral to ES learning

OUR PLEDGE

The California Writing Project stands up for social justice. We seek to be partners in a humanizing revolution that uses the rhetorical power — possessed by each of us as thinkers and writers — to resist injustice.

We commit to:

- Creating safe spaces where we listen loudly, engage in difficult conversations and sit with the discomfort that allows self-examination and growth.
- Using dialogue, the written word and action to address systemic racism and injustice, wherever we witness them.
- Elevating the voices of those who are marginalized and threatened.

Because writing is one of the greatest tools for disrupting the status quo, we envision a future where we all have the capacity to write powerfully about the purposes that matter most.

REGIONAL SITES

Area 3 Writing Project
 Bay Area Writing Project
 Cal State Northridge Writing Project
 California Writing Project:
 Statewide Office
 Central California Writing Project
 Great Valley Writing Project
 Inland Area Writing Project
 Northern California Writing Project
 Redwood Writing Project
 San Diego Area Writing Project
 San Joaquin Valley Writing Project
 San Jose Area Writing Project
 San Marcos Writing Project
 South Coast Writing Project
 UC Irvine Writing Project
 UCLA Writing Project

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X: [@californiawp](https://twitter.com/californiawp)

2,408

Number of educators served
 (2024–25)

614

Number of schools served
 (2024–25)

“In the work of CWP, [we] see that the capacities built up in all previous years come to bear on the mission to strengthen teaching and learning... These capacities include the specialized knowledge and skills that teachers hone while teaching California’s diverse students, the leadership that CWP representatives exercise in their institutions, and the project’s statewide presence as a vital professional community of inquiry. ...We applaud CWP for its sustained commitment to developing all students as effective writers and to strengthening the teaching profession.”

INVERNESS RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

“CWP programs have been completely transformative. I have become the kind of teacher I’ve always wanted to be, as CWP has taught me strategies for success and given me the confidence to trust in my own expertise. My students genuinely engage in all of my courses, and, overall, they consider themselves capable writers!”

CWP PARTICIPANT



CWP is a member of the **California Subject Matter Project (CSMP)**, a network of nine discipline-specific projects administered by the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) that provide high-quality professional learning for PK–12 teachers throughout California. Each project is represented statewide by regional sites on the campuses of UC, California State University and independent colleges and universities. For more information about CSMP, please visit [csmponline](http://csmponline.org).