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
- Preparing students for the work of writing — in school and college, in the workplace and community
- 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

"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

LEADERSHIP

CWP sites conduct Invitational Leadership Institutes in the Teaching of Writing that prepare teacher consultants through intensive inquiry into effective writing and assessment practices, supporting research, and the student writing that results. Teacher consultants 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 consultants 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 consultants engage in a variety of leadership activities:

- Classroom coaching and mentoring
- Partnerships with schools and districts
- 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.

College and Career Readiness — *Improving Students' Analytical Writing* is a statewide program that focuses on accelerating the analytical writing and critical reading improvement of all students. This program fosters collaboration among high school, community college and university instructors to prepare students for college and career readiness.

Support for California Standards — CWP programs build knowledge of CCSS*-aligned instruction and assessment, integrate CCSS into school writing programs, and place discipline-specific literacy at the core of teacher support. Programs also focus on connecting ELD standards with CCSS to support equitable classroom opportunities for English learners, as well as on strengthening the learning connections between home and school.

Digital Writing, Teaching and Learning — CWP provides programs that link technology-mediated instruction and assessment to the CCSS, strengthen student learning by developing 21st-century skills and address media literacy.

*Common Core State Standards

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.

5,208

Number of educators served (2018–19)

568

Number of schools served (2018–19)

"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

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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

CALIFORNIA SUBJECT MATTER PROJECT

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 K–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 **csmp.online.**