

RESOURCES FOR VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION AND ONLINE LEARNING

NCTE BOOKS

[Writing Together: Ten Weeks Teaching and Studenting in an Online Writing Course](#)

This book narrates the experience of an asynchronous online writing course (OWC) through the dual perspective of the teacher, Scott, and a student, Diana Gasiewski, who participated in that OWC. Both teacher and student describe their strategies, activities, approaches, thoughts, and responses as they move week by week through the experience of teaching and taking an OWC.

NCTE BLOG POSTS

- [Audiobooks in the Classroom](#)
You've probably heard that audiobooks serve as a useful resource for struggling readers. Classroom teachers sometimes use audiobooks to help students gain access to material that's too difficult for them to read independently. Audiobooks help novice readers build vocabulary, boost pronunciation skills, and develop fluency. What you might not have considered is what audiobooks offer proficient readers.
- [Blockbuster Movies](#)
Book-to-film adaptations provide great ways for children to explore their favorite books in new ways.
- [Comics and Cartoons in the Classroom](#)
Read on to see how you can use comics and cartoons with children and students.
- [Creating Community through Writing](#)
Children and students need to feel that they own their space and the learning that takes place in it.
- [Family Fun!](#)
Encourage family relationship building by participating in family activities during breaks from school.
- [Family Literacy](#)
The following resources from NCTE and ReadWriteThink.org provide more ideas for fostering family literacy.
- ["I Know the Answer to 1 Down!"](#)
Nothing tests your knowledge like a crossword puzzle! But did you know the format of a crossword puzzle can be an effective learning tool, too?
- [Spending Time with Family](#)
If you are spending time with friends and family, in person or virtually, work together on these activities!
- [Students' Use of Social Media for Advocacy](#)
Since a majority of our students are engaging with social media outside the classroom, it makes good sense to integrate it into learning.
- [Support Literacy Learners All Year Long](#)

Breaks from school offer wonderful opportunities for families, caregivers, and out-of-school educators to help improve reading and writing. ReadWriteThink.org's Parent & Afterschool Resources and NCTE provide many resources, activities, and tools.

- [Teaching with Blogs](#)

Reading and writing texts online are basic skills that students need to be literate citizens in today's world. Teaching with blogs provides the opportunity to engage students in both of these literacy activities, and the strategy has the additional benefit of enabling students to publish their writing easily and to share their writing with an authentic audience.

- [Write a Letter!](#)

Take a few minutes and send someone a handwritten letter. Then, invite your students to write letters using these resources from ReadWriteThink.org.

- [Writing with Zines](#)

Zines are small-circulation, self-published works of original or appropriated texts and images. Here are some resources from NCTE and ReadWriteThink.org to get you started.

NCTE JOURNAL ARTICLES

- [Beyond the Page: New Literacies in the Twenty-First Century](#)

Voices from the Middle

Lesson plans with specific digital tools mentioned to complete projects/tasks.

- ["But in the end, you are all beautiful": Exploring Gender through Digital Composition](#)

English Journal

The authors examine photovoice projects created by students and teacher candidates who explored issues of gender in response to a young adult novel and co-researched that process.

- ["Can we blog about this?": Amplifying Student Voice in Secondary Language Arts](#)

English Journal

This article describes blogging implementation in ninth-grade pre-advanced placement language arts classes to support strong writing practices. The author found that blogging empowered high school authors to craft worlds of digital expression where they pushed each other to become stronger writers.

- [Digital Tools You Need to Know](#)

Voices from the Middle

Recommendations of digital classroom tools from The Nerdy Book Club.

- [Discovering Digital Differentiation: A Teacher Reimagines Writing Workshop in the Digital Age](#)

Voices from the Middle

This article describes how a middle school teacher uses technology, within an otherwise traditional writing workshop, to facilitate differentiated mini-lessons, confer with writers, and offer writers opportunity for peer response. In the end, she balances ways of streamlining workflow digitally, while maintaining the integrity of writing workshop

and offering greater differentiation to meet the needs of writers in her middle school classroom.

- [Growing Practice and Skills through Technologically Enhanced Conferencing](#)
English Leadership Quarterly
In this interview, Chris Bronke, teacher and CEL member, discusses useful digital tools for conferencing.
- [Google Drive: Facilitating Collaboration and Authentic Community Beyond the Classroom](#)
Voices from the Middle
This article offers a model for organizing collaborative learning outside of classroom time. It describes affordances and constraints of the digital space and the process used. It also offers insight to how teaching in online spaces looks different from face-to-face instruction and how to support students. Includes screenshots that show very specific ways to set up a class module along with discussions of what to consider as you construct this.
- [Interrogating Influence: Leveraging the Power of Social Media](#)
English Journal
The authors worked with preservice teachers and youth in a juvenile detention center to pilot a curriculum focused on critical engagement with online text. Discussion of a specific lesson plan that involves analyzing Instagram posts.
- [“It Was Like I Was There”: Inspiring Engagement through Virtual Reality](#)
English Journal
The setting and characters of *To Kill a Mockingbird* came to life in new ways when eighth graders in Georgia explored virtual reality apps as they studied the novel.
- [Language Field Guides: Co-Vocabulary Curriculum through Inquiry](#)
Voices from the Middle
While this specific lesson was classroom-focused, it could easily be adapted to digital work, especially related to current events.
- [Reconsidering Student Inquiry through Digital Narrative Nonfiction](#)
English Journal
As an alternative to the traditional research paper for an English class, a digital narrative assignment positioned students as multimedia storytellers.
- [Redesigning Peer Response as Conversation](#)
English Leadership Quarterly
Discussion of a specific lesson plan and digital tools for sharing peer responses to writing.
- [Uninterrupted and On Their Own: Audio Reflections in the Writing Classroom](#)
Language Arts
This Perspectives on Practice column focuses on using student audio recordings to help them craft their writing. Students use audio recorders of their own choice (like a smartphone or other kind of device) to record their own thoughts as they draft projects.

ReadWriteThink.org RESOURCES

- ReadWriteThink's mission is to provide educators, parents, and afterschool professionals with access to the highest quality practices in reading and language arts instruction by offering the very best in free materials.
- [Parent & Afterschool Resources](#)
So just how are you supposed to read aloud? Or help kids write? Get quick and useful suggestions from the experts.
- [ReadWriteThink.org Literacy Calendar](#)
Not your everyday calendar, here you can find important events in literary history, authors' birthdays, and a variety of holidays, all with related activities and resources that make them more relevant to students. View by day, by week, or by month.
- [Step-By-Step Activities](#)
Want to help kids and teens with their reading and writing skills, but not sure where to begin? We've got engaging, step-by-step activities—just pick one and get started!
- [Support Literacy Learning Flyer \(Printable\)](#)
Kids and teens should read and write even when they are out of school. Why is this so important? Check out this flyer.

RWT ACTIVITIES K–12

- [Acting Out with Mother Goose \(K–2\)](#)
Act out a story after reading it. Work together to create a script and make costumes and props. Then invite others to watch and hear your story!
- [Add Seasons to Rhyming Poems and Songs \(K–2\)](#)
Choose favorite rhyming songs or nursery rhymes then replace the rhyming words with seasonal themes.
- [All About Me! Use Photos to Write Stories \(K–2\)](#)
Help children use favorite photos to write a homemade memory book.
- [Blast Off to Learn New Words \(K–2\)](#)
Boost vocabulary by taking an imaginary trip into space. After a lunar "landing," children return to Earth with a galaxy of new words.
- [Cooking and Creating in the Kitchen \(K–2\)](#)
After reading *If You Give a Moose a Muffin*, have a "Muffin Party"! Children will write invitations, follow a recipe, and enjoy sharing their homemade muffins.
- [Learn About Staying Safe \(K–2\)](#)
Share a fun book about staying safe and then talk about real-life safety issues before writing a letter to someone in your community who can help.
- [Learning Your Address and Phone Number \(K–2\)](#)
Children will learn their address and phone number to help keep them safe.
- [Let's Go On A Poetry Walk! \(K–2\)](#)

The sun is shining, the birds are chirping, and you're surrounded by brilliant shades of green! Observe and collect sensory images from nature and use the sights, sounds, smells, and textures to create original nature poetry.

- **[Let's Go on a Reading Hunt! \(K-2\)](#)**
In this activity, children go on a hunt for places where they can read and enjoy books: on a family road trip, at the pool, at the doctor's office.
- **[Let's Play Bingo! \(K-2\)](#)**
Work together, create a bingo board that can be played while walking around town, going to the zoo or a museum, or traveling on a vacation.
- **[Note Writing at a Message Center \(K-2\)](#)**
In this activity, children write short everyday notes to remind, plan, request, or compliment others.
- **[Practice Letters and Sounds Using Online Games \(K-2\)](#)**
Find three fun online games that are designed to help children learn to recognize letters and how they sound.
- **[Reading Signs and Labels \(K-2\)](#)**
These activities will have children reading signs, logos, brand names, and other words all over their homes and communities.
- **[Rhyme Time with Madeline \(K-2\)](#)**
Children love books that rhyme and to create their own rhymes. It's a fun way to learn how words sound similar to one another!
- **[Take a Closer Look: Write Around the Room \(K-2\)](#)**
With a piece of paper and a pen, kids can learn anywhere! This activity gets kids writing, looking closely at letters, and learning some new words in any room of the house.
- **[Write Captivating Captions \(K-2\)](#)**
Encourage children to connect words and pictures by having them write their own captions for family or magazine photos.
- **[Watching a Garden Grow \(K-2\)](#)**
When you plant a garden, involve children in the process by writing down questions and observations on the garden's growth in a garden journal.
- **[We're Going on a Shape Hunt! \(K-2\)](#)**
From dishes to doors, find shapes all around you while strengthening important reading and math skills.
- **[Wild and Crazy Words \(K-3\)](#)**
Make learning how to spell words a little "wild and crazy" by ditching the pen and paper and using unique materials that will make your kids really smile while they're having fun.
- **[The Natural World as Inspiration: An Outdoor Art Show \(K-6\)](#)**
Children incorporate materials from outdoors with paints or crayons to create pieces of art to display on their clotheslines, fences, or porches for a neighborhood art show.
- **[Become a Young Archaeologist \(1-4\)](#)**
Want to visit a museum without leaving your computer? Virtually dig for famous historical artifacts from around the world found in the British Museum.



- **[Confection Connection: Using Sensory Details in Writing \(2–4\)](#)**
Get children excited about writing and descriptive language by creating yummy descriptions of their favorite candy.
- **[Write a Recipe \(3–5\)](#)**
Use recipes to help children practice reading and writing step-by-step instructions. Have them sample the results to see how they did.
- **[Write Theme Poems \(3–5\)](#)**
Use shape and theme poems—poems that look like the things they describe—as a fun way to introduce children to poetry.
- **[Can You Convince Me? \(3–5\)](#)**
Children learn how to make a convincing argument—an important skill in school and in life.
- **[Create Trading Cards for Favorite Characters \(3–5\)](#)**
Have children make cards describing their favorite characters from the books they have read.
- **[Creating Comics and Cartoons! \(3–5\)](#)**
Using published comics and cartoons as examples, children can create their own while playing with images and language.
- **[Creating Family Timelines \(3–5\)](#)**
Children can interview family members and make an illustrated timeline of the most important family events and memories.
- **[Explore and Write About Nature \(3–5\)](#)**
In this activity, children look closely at living things in their natural environments and then make books about what they see.
- **[Fairy Tales and You \(3–5\)](#)**
Children will draw on their knowledge of story structure and fairy tales to write their own.
- **[Go Wild with Webcams! \(3–5\)](#)**
Can't make it to a zoo? After reading a book about apes, observe animal habits and habitats using one of the many webcams broadcasting from zoos and aquariums around the United States and the world.
- **[Let's Play a Game \(3–5\)](#)**
Playing board games or card games can be a fun activity, so why not make your own?
- **[Mail Time! \(3–5\)](#)**
Sort through your junk mail and talk about what you find for a fun literacy activity before recycling it!
- **[Star Light, Star Bright: Reading and Writing about the Nighttime Sky \(3–5\)](#)**
Children watch the nighttime sky come alive as they read a book about fascinating elements in the night and write a poem/story about the things they learn!
- **[Telling My Story: Make a Bio-Cube \(3–5\)](#)**
Let children explore an interesting subject—themselves. An online tool will teach them to summarize and organize information as they write.



- **[Books Will Take You There! \(3–6\)](#)**
While enjoying a book that features a journey, children write postcards from the perspective of the main character for each stop along the trip.
- **[Can Letters Tell a Story? \(3–6\)](#)**
Shake up children's reading by introducing them to new and fun formats for storytelling.
- **[Amazing Biographies: Writing About People Who Change the World \(3–8\)](#)**
After reading about historical figures and other important people that have changed the world, children choose someone that they consider to be "amazing"—either someone they've heard about or someone they know—and create a book page that highlights this person.
- **[Follow the Word Trail: Organize a Treasure Hunt \(3–8\)](#)**
Create a treasure hunt out of word-puzzle clues hidden around the home or yard.
- **[Send a Smile: Make a Card for a Special Occasion \(3–8\)](#)**
Everyone loves getting a greeting card, especially if it's handmade. Make a funny or thoughtful greeting card or invitation with pictures and a poem, a joke, or a riddle.
- **[Think Hink Pinks! \(4–6\)](#)**
Kids will love Hink Pinks—word puzzles that use two-word clues to lead to a rhyming solution. Try one and get hooked yourself: Obese feline? Fat cat!
- **[Unveiling Idioms: A Game of Concentration \(4–8\)](#)**
Brainstorm popular expressions with friends and family, then explore their meanings through game play and writing/drawing/cut-and-paste activities.
- **[Explore Point of View in Fairy Tales \(5–8\)](#)**
Explore fairy tales told in both old and new ways and use an online tool to help children create their own "fractured" version of a fairy tale.
- **[Make a Mystery Puzzle \(5–8\)](#)**
Have children explore the different parts of mystery writing by making a puzzle about a favorite book. They can then invent and write their own mysteries using the online Mystery Cube tool.
- **[Make a Magnetic Poetry Set \(5–10\)](#)**
Let children practice using different types of words in a fill-in-the-blank-story game before making their own word list for a magnetic poetry set.
- **[Celebrate Heroes \(6–8\)](#)**
Encourage children to spend a little time thinking and writing about just what makes a hero and who their personal heroes might be.
- **[A Trip to the Museum: From Picture to Story \(6–8\)](#)**
Visit a museum or art gallery (either online or in person) with children and teens, helping them find inspiration for a story based on a piece of art that they particularly enjoy or relate to.
- **[Finding Poetry in Pleasure Reading \(6–8\)](#)**
After reading a book or magazine, children and teens can choose a section and transform it into a "found poem."
- **[Have You Seen the Movie Yet? \(6–8\)](#)**

Before seeing a film based on a book, classic or contemporary, children can learn about filmmaking and create their own scenes based on their favorite moments from the book.

- **[Write Letters to Friends and Family \(6–8\)](#)**
Invite young adults to write letters to classmates, postcards from travels, and emails to family and friends.
- **[Writing Fanfiction \(6–10\)](#)**
Writing stories that imitate a certain genre or type of fiction allows children to explore a book they love by imagining new twists for their favorite characters and plot lines.
- **[Create a Career Blog \(7–12\)](#)**
This activity invites children and teens to explore various careers and then write about what they might want to be when they grow up in a blog.
- **[It's Raining Cats and Dogs! Make a Children's Book about the Weather \(7–12\)](#)**
Kids learn about weather sayings throughout history while writing and illustrating a book for younger children.
- **[Music in Movies: You Pick the Soundtrack \(7–12\)](#)**
Explore how music can have an emotional impact on a scene in a movie, then help teens write and film a scene of their own.
- **[MyTube: Make a Video Public Service Announcement \(7–12\)](#)**
Invite teens to explore issues that are important to them and then write a script and film a video public service announcement.
- **[Bio-Graph: Graphing Life Events \(9–12\)](#)**
Work with teens to learn about family members' significant personal experiences by interviewing them and sharing their stories with the rest of the family.
- **[Blog about Courage Using Photos \(9–12\)](#)**
Engage teens in this activity in which they use photographs to examine and write about courage on a blog.
- **[Children's Book Project \(9–12\)](#)**
This activity can help teens create picture books that a teen caregiver can then share with children.
- **[Comic Book Show and Tell \(9–12\)](#)**
This activity will help pairs or groups of teens explore a hands-on approach that lets them become both comic book writers and comic book artists.
- **[Explore Your Reading Self \(9–12\)](#)**
In this activity teens are encouraged to explore their reading history as they remember books they liked reading as children and then revisit these old favorites.
- **[Personal Playlists: Ten Favorite Songs \(9–12\)](#)**
Work with a teen to create a wiki with everything people should know about the teen's top ten favorite songs—and your favorite songs as well! Then invite friends to add their favorite songs too.
- **[Recording Family Stories \(9–12\)](#)**



Teens can take part in the process of building family histories by recording the stories, or memoirs, of family members.

- [**Soundtrack for My Life \(9–12\)**](#)
In this project, teens create autobiographies, adding music selections to their life stories.
- [**Speak Up! Writing a Review \(9–12\)**](#)
This activity gives teens an opportunity to write reviews on the movies, television shows, music, restaurants, and books they love—and hate!
- [**Special Memories & Significant Moments: Making an Electronic Scrapbook \(9–12\)**](#)
Using a variety of artifacts, mementos, and technologies, teens can create an electronic scrapbook of their most important moments in high school.
- [**Telling Good from Bad in Movies and Television \(9–12\)**](#)
In this activity, you can discuss with teens how they can tell the "good" characters from the "bad" ones by watching for clues that the movie makers have left.
- [**Writing a First Résumé \(9–12\)**](#)
This activity will help teens create a professional résumé that effectively presents their skills and talents to future employers.

FROM OTHER EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS

- [9 Remote Learning Strategies](#)—*Think CERCA*
- [Amazing \(and Free\) Resources from the Library of Congress](#)—*Knowledge Quest*
- [A Mini Clearinghouse on Coronavirus, Created by Two School Librarians](#)—*School Library Journal*
- [Calling Online Educators: How Can We Help Our Colleagues Whose Courses Have Already Gone or Might Soon Go Online?](#)—*Now Comment*
- [Connected Learning in Teaching Practice: Resources for Educators](#)—*Connected Learning Alliance*
- [Coronavirus Is Poised to Inflamm Inequality In Schools](#)—*The Hechinger Report*
- [Coronavirus Resources: Teaching, Learning and Thinking Critically](#)—*The New York Times*
- [Education Companies Offering Free Subscriptions due to School Closings](#)—*Amazing Educational Resources*
- [Going Online: Nurturing Learning & Community During a Pandemic](#)—*Ethical ELA*
- [People Share Their Favorite Library Lifehacks](#)—*I Love Libraries*
- [Prepare to Move Online \(In A Hurry\)](#)—*Inside Higher Ed*
- [Resources for Teaching Online Due to School Closures](#)—*The Edublogger*
- [Students' Readiness to Adopt Fully Online Learning](#)—*Educause*