



The **National Conversation on Writing** (NCoW) is a digital archive of stories about writing and writers.

*NCoW wants your story!*

Basic writing teachers and students have much to teach all of us about writing and writers. We are looking for interviews with basic writing teachers and their students to be developed into a digital story about students called basic writers and basic writing teachers *as* writers.

**NCoW Purpose:** Via the Network for Media Action (NMA), the Council of Writing Program Administrators (WPA) argues that “everyone is a writer.” The National Conversation on Writing is a WPA-NMA initiative that attempts to prove exactly that by collecting stories about writing and writers from across the country.

In short, NCoW is a digital archive of oral histories and other artifacts about writing and writers.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Invitation to Basic Writing Instructors:**

1. Capture video/audio interviews with basic writing instructors during our CBW Workshop (San Francisco, March 2009) and/or our CBW Special Interest Group (also CCCC 2009). Using the interview script below and the cameras/audio recorders provided, record your story!
2. Make sure all participants involved sign consent forms! (also attached)
3. Share that story with us. Simply fill out the submission form (attached) and return your audio/video recorders. We'll do the rest!
4. Invite your students to share their stories as well. If you can't locate audio/video equipment, ask them to write their stories down. Send those to us at [www.ncow.org](http://www.ncow.org). Print-based documents are very welcome!
5. Make sure all participants sign consent forms and fill out submissions. Online submission forms, consent forms, and interview scripts are all available at [www.ncow.org](http://www.ncow.org).

**Resulting Project:** With Texas A&M-Commerce MA students Sylwester Zabielski and Angela Kennedy, I wish to develop a video contribution to NCoW. Inspired by the NCoW inaugural video “Who is a Writer? What Writers Tell Us,” the proposed video would develop a sustained narrative from the video and audio contributions of yourselves and your students. Unlike “Who is a Writer?” the resulting video will be from the perspective of a particular group: basic writing professionals and students enrolled in basic writing courses. We will contribute this video to NCoW and make it available to anyone interested.

## **Interview Script:**

*Use these possible interview questions and conversation starters (but feel free to see what develops).*

- How does writing happen/develop?
  - Prompt: how do you write? What kind of process do you use when you write? Do you wait for inspiration? Doodle around? Make an outline?
- What do you write? Why do you write what you do?
  - Prompt: grocery lists? Emails? Prompt 'in school' and out of school if necessary...
- Does writing <one kind of thing> help you write <another kind of thing?> (<things> should/could be mentioned in responses to first two questions)
- When is writing hard? When is it easy?
- When is writing fun?
- What's the best thing you've ever written?
- What's the easiest thing you've ever written?
- What's the worst (or most difficult?) thing you've ever written?
- What's the hardest thing?
- Has any person helped you especially with writing? What did she or he do?
- Who reads the writing you do? What do your readers do for your writing?

\*\*\*\*\*

Other ideas? Join the National Conversation on Writing! <http://www.ncow.org>

*Contact information:* Shannon Carter (NCoW Coordinator), Department of Literature and Languages, PO Box 3011, Commerce, Texas, 75429-3011, shannon\_carter@tamu-commerce.edu