



New Jersey Writing Alliance

**Building bridges between secondary schools
and colleges.**

21st Annual New Jersey Writing Alliance Conference

Responding to the Moment: Information Literacy Now

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Rowan University

After a pandemic hiatus, the New Jersey Writing Alliance is pleased to announce that we are resuming our annual conference, this year hosted by the Department of Writing Arts at Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ. The conference theme is digital and information literacy, with a particular focus on teaching toward the impending information literacy learning standards called for in NJ Senate Bill 588. We are excited to gather middle school faculty, high school faculty, college faculty, and librarians from across the state for a full-day of workshops to learn from one another about helping students navigate today's complex information landscape and become stronger critical thinkers.

WI-FI and SOCIAL MEDIA

Rowan Wireless Guest Login Instructions:

- Go to the list of available networks and select "RowanWiFi"
- Under the "Guests and Visitors" section in the window that pops up, click **Please sign in here**. If a window doesn't automatically pop up, open a browser and navigate to rowan.edu and follow the same steps.
- Check the "I accept the terms of use" box and click Connect.

Twitter:

Tweet today with **#NJWA2023**

Follow us [@WriteNJ](https://twitter.com/WriteNJ)

Facebook:

facebook.com/newjerseywritingalliance

Website:

newjerseywritingalliance.org

8:30-9:30 AM

REGISTRATION & LIGHT BREAKFAST

BUSINESS HALL HUB

9:30-9:45 AM

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

BUSINESS HALL 104

Michelle Rubano, Delran High School, Rowan College at Burlington County

Amy Woodworth, Rowan University

Olga Polites, Rowan University

SESSION 1: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sessions accompanied by an asterisk [] are intended for those who may be new to information literacy

A) Media Literacy Crash Course* Business Hall 104

Olga Polites (Rowan University)

With New Jersey's new information literacy law, students will develop critical thinking skills such as how information is created, produced and shared; the differences between facts, points of view and opinions; and the ethical production of information. This workshop will explore how to infuse media literacy into existing lessons with resources available to middle and high school teachers.

B) Algorithmic Awareness in the Writing Classroom* Business Hall 101

Andrea Baer (Rowan University)

In this workshop, participants will learn about the often obfuscated ways that algorithms influence our everyday lives and will reflect on the particular relevance of algorithmic awareness in the writing classroom. Participants will be introduced to resources and teaching activities that encourage both teachers and students to practice and grow algorithmic awareness, which is a key part of critical engagement with online information and online platforms. They will also be invited to reflect on and share about their approaches to practicing and fostering algorithmic awareness in their teaching. This workshop is relevant to all writing teachers.

C) Digital Writing and Codes of Conduct Business Hall 103

James Brown (Rutgers University-Camden)

We tend to think about digital writing as words on screen, or perhaps even as the writing of code. But what about the writing that establishes the rules and practices of our digital environments? A code of conduct can be just as important as the code. Too often seen as a bureaucratic document that sits in the background, a code of conduct establishes and maintains the values of a community. During this workshop, attendees will collaboratively author a code of conduct, an exercise that can be taken to classrooms at any level and that can shape teaching and learning situations both online and offline.

D) Playing the Bad News Game: Prebunking Misinformation Practices in the Classroom with Gamification* **Business Hall 121**

Miles Coleman (Rowan University)

Attendees will learn about the "Bad News Game" and how they can use it in their classes to teach students about the communication tactics used in fake news. The workshop is suited for teachers and students at the middle school level and beyond.

SESSION 2: 11:15 AM -12:15 PM

A) Information Literacy, Civic Engagement, and Social Change **Business Hall 104**

Jude Miller, Amanda Haruch, Ted Howell, & Tiffany DeRewal (Rowan University)

Media literacy frameworks involve not just the ability to access, analyze, and evaluate sources of information and media messages but also the ability to create messages and take action. This roundtable explores the various ways that research and writing can be used for civic engagement and for social change. Roundtable participants will share activities they have used with students to work with or research community stakeholders, develop a deeper understanding of how our lived experiences impact our relationships to social issues, think through the roles of power and privilege in how information circulates and who is treated as an authority, and leverage public-facing genres to take action through writing. Halfway through this session, we will invite attendees into dialogue to share their methods and ideas for fostering civic engagement in writing courses.

B) Teaching Information Literacy with Wikipedia **Business Hall 101**

Samantha Kannegiser (Rutgers University-Camden)

Learn how you can use researching and writing for Wikipedia to teach information literacy concepts and encourage students to be producers of knowledge. In this session, I will review how I used the Framework for Information Literacy to craft a local history themed Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon for a diverse audience. I will include an overview of the planning process, resources needed, challenges and opportunities, ideas for assessment, examples of other Wikipedia assignments, and an opportunity for attendees to practice editing Wikipedia.

C) Collaborative Information Literacy Instruction* **Business Hall 103**

Doneanne Sault (Delran High School)

Secondary-level library media specialists can collaborate with classroom teachers on a variety of information literacy topics to support curriculum and instruction. In this session, participants will learn a variety of collaborative ideas between library media specialists and secondary teachers to support information literacy standards. A ready-made example information literacy lesson with resources to support high school English will be demonstrated with participants, including take-aways.

D) Fact-Checking as a Genre*

Business Hall 121

Jason Luther (Rowan University)

How can we empower students to not only sort through but remediate information pollution? One fruitful strategy is to use the genre of fact-checking to model participatory citizenship. In this workshop, attendees will be introduced to a fact-checking writing assignment called the Truthometer, and practice a few scaffolding exercises that help guide students toward critical web literacies, including: analyzing models such as Politifact, identifying facts worth checking from social media, going upstream, reading laterally, and narrating practices for communicating fact-checking processes.

E) Better Conversations about Bias*

Business Hall 131

Jaclyn Partyka & Nicole Cesare (Rowan University)

Often when students are asked to identify issues that may get in the way of their understanding of current events, the news, and online information systems, they identify “bias” as a major factor. This session seeks to unpack how a more robust and situational understanding of bias can be leveraged to both guide students through the research process and empower them to see themselves as meaningful participants in contemporary conversations. During this workshop, attendees will collaborate on ways to respond to some common classroom scenarios about bias. This workshop contains materials for middle school to college level instruction.

12:15 PM - 1:15 PM

LUNCH

BUSINESS HALL HUB

Guests are welcome to bring lunch to any seating area on the first floor, second floor, or patio.

SESSION 3: 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

A) Can I trust you? Interrogating LLMs as Authority

Business Hall 104

Jonathan Howell & Catherine Baird (Montclair University)

A linguist and a librarian invite you to take a step back from the breathless pace of advances in AI to consider the role of trust. Using language games (e.g. MadLibs and cloze tests), we develop students' understanding of large language models (LLMs). And by reflecting on the language we use to describe algorithms (e.g. what they "know" and "want"), we explore how trust in technology differs (or not) from trust in humans.

B) Engaging Struggling Writers in the Writing Process: The Visual Essay*

Business Hall 101

Michelle Rubano (Delran High School, Rowan College at Burlington County)

This session will model assignments targeted to engage struggling writers in the research process through using visual and audio techniques to enhance writing. The workshop is suited for teachers and students at the middle school level and beyond.

C) Teaching News Literacy with the News Literacy Project*

Business Hall 103

Leslie Allison (Rowan University)

Teaching news literacy is more important than ever, but also increasingly complex. Come learn how the nonprofit organization, The News Literacy Project, can enhance your teaching. A demonstration of their "Checkology" classroom will be provided, featuring interchangeable videos, activities, and quizzes designed to build student skills in combating misinformation and identifying credible sources. This workshop contains materials for middle school to college level instruction.

D) Social-Emotional Learning in the Digital Age*

Business Hall 121

Kristie-Anne Opaleski (Jackson Liberty High School) & Kate Baker (BookWidgets)

Social Emotional Learning is about connection and ownership of oneself but what about the fact that our students are on screens all day? This workshop for high school and college instructors will explore how to promote SEL digitally and will share best practices and resources with participants.

2:30-3:00 PM

CLOSING

BUSINESS HALL HUB

Distribution of Professional Development Certificates

Chat with NJWA officers

To access presentation materials from today, use this QR code or this link: bit.ly/3IbioSD



Please fill out an Exit Survey about today, using this QR code or this link: bit.ly/3BGo2YZ



We gather today at Rowan University on the ancestral, indigenous land of the Lenni-Lenape people in a country built on the labor of Black and Brown bodies, a country with a history of othering groups that fall outside of the Eurocentric "norm." We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of this land and their continuing relationship with their territory. As we go about our work and professional development today, we call upon all of us to consider how power and privilege historically have and continue to impact technology, the media, the production and circulation of information, and the positions from which we engage in civic and public life.

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