

The Meadow Brook Writing Project presents
Side by Side Symposium 2016
Collaboration: Creating a Culture of Community
 An "Unconference"

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Registration and Continental Breakfast
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Session A
Room 314	<p><i>Memoir: Getting Students Ready to Write</i> Facilitator: Melissa St. Pierre <u>Description:</u> This conversation explores students' reservations about writing. Many students, at various ages, are afraid to write. They are afraid of things such as word counts, page limits, and format. Beyond those, students are often afraid of judgment and associate writing with punishment. Getting our students back to simply storytelling helps overcome the initial fear and will "jump" students into a safer writing space. No grades. No "correcting." Just write.</p>
11:30 – 12:30 noon	Session B
Room 314	<p><i>Collaborative Journals</i> Facilitator: Celeste A. Turner <u>Description:</u> Collaborative journals are designed to encourage writing by letting students share theme-based journals. Each student in the classroom reads other student entries and adds their own writing to the journal. It also gives teachers a snapshot of writing skills in the classroom by observing each individual journal. Cross-curricular themes such as Science Fair and Math Story Problems extend the writing. These journals can be inexpensive and fun to create, and this session will encourage a discussion about other collaborative writing units.</p>
12:30 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Session C
Room 314	<p><i>Classroom Strategies to Help Foster a Sense of Community Within the Classroom</i> Facilitator: Felecia Branch <u>Description:</u> This session will begin with a discussion about collaborative activities in the classroom. The conversation will continue to investigate a variety of researched strategies that build community in order to promote writing skills as well as how to tweak and adapt such strategies for use in any classroom setting.</p>
2:00 – 2:10 p.m.	Follow-up Comments and Announcements

Rules for the "unconference":

- Sessions begin with a facilitator on a particular topic and last about 45 minutes; the balance of time is for networking, socializing, and taking breaks.
- Sessions are facilitated discussions, not presentations.
- Bring supplies, handouts, or simply your own experiences.
- The goal of each session is to generate new ideas through collaborative discussions.

March 5, 2016
Oakland University - Pawley Hall
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