



WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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edu.wyoming.gov
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MEMORANDUM NO. 2015-039

TO: District Superintendents
Principals
Curriculum Directors
Instructional Facilitators
ELA Teachers (grades 2-8)

FROM: Laurie Hernandez, Supervisor of Standards and Early Childhood; Mathematics Consultant, Standards and Accountability Division

DATE: April 13, 2015

SUBJECT: WORKSHOP: Supporting Writing Instruction in Wyoming

SUMMER WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY

WRITING INSTRUCTION WORKSHOP

Using Wyoming's writing prompts, the WDE Standards and Assessment teams will be offering four two-day professional development sessions to support standards-based instruction for writing. During these sessions, participants will systematically score and norm student papers in order to inform quality writing instruction.

Participants will first need to administer the selected Wyoming writing prompts (two per grade level) to students and bring writing samples to the norming session. Please find the writing prompts and directions at the link below:

<http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/standards/language-arts>

During the norming sessions, teachers will score and analyze student writing. Discussions will examine the strengths and shortcomings of student writing; it will outline teacher responses, concerns, and expectations. When scoring is complete, the discussion will then turn to instructional intent. How do we nurture essential writing skills? What strategies might we use to combat poor writing habits? How do we use writing assessments to guide instruction? What opportunities need to be created and maintained across Wyoming to build upon an already strong baseline of writing performance?

Due to the collaborative nature of these sessions, participants are encouraged to attend in teams of two or more. Teams can then more easily work together to implement the norming model at the local level. For their attendance and participation in the two-day workshop, participants will receive 1 PTSB credit. Please see the attached agenda for more information.

Workshop Dates	Locations
Tuesday-Wednesday, June 9-10	Cheyenne
Thursday-Friday, June 11-12	Riverton
Monday-Tuesday, June 15-16	Cody
Wednesday-Thursday, June 17-18	Casper

Those interested in attending one of these two-day workshops must register using the link below. Registration closes on May 19th and will be capped at 50 participants per location on a first-come, first-served basis.

<http://goo.gl/forms/KkFwkfYNUi>

If you have questions, please contact Catherine Reeves at catherine.reeves@wyo.gov, or (307) 777-8595.