

2004

## Back Matter

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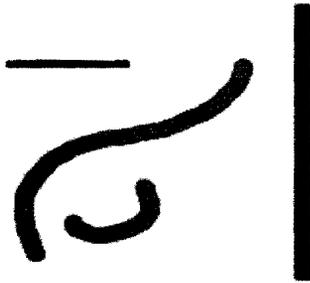
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CALL FOR PROPOSALS to present at the "Bright Ideas" Spring Conference on the English Language Arts  
**FINDING OUR VOICES**



**Saturday, April 16, 2005**

**8:30 AM - 4:30 PM**

**MSU UNION BUILDING**

**EAST LANSING, MI**

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**SESSIONS** will be 50 minutes and may involve various modes: discussion, demonstration, or workshop.

**PROPOSALS** may be for a 50-minute session, a 25-minute session (paired with one on a related topic), or a 50-minute panel (3-5 panelists).

**POSTER SESSIONS AVAILABLE**  
(see details on other side).

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Please return your proposal by  
**January 14, 2005** to:

Marilyn Wilson  
Department of English  
201 Morrill Hall  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI 48824

If you have questions, contact  
**Marilyn Wilson** at  
**(517) 355-1899** or  
**wilsonm@msu.edu**.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Sara Holbrook**

*Teacher, Writer, and Performance Poet*

Sara Holbrook writes poetry that appeals to middle grade readers and the middle grade reader in all of us. Using humor, she addresses the ever present school woes, such as siblings, fitting in, homework and first love. Sara refers to her poems as "Kid Poems for the not-so-bad because I write for kids who are like I am -- maybe a little ornery, but really not-so-bad." In her keynote, Sara will demonstrate how to use poetry, how to perform it, and how to find the poetry in ourselves and in our students as she addresses the conference theme "Finding Our Voices."

**About the Conference...**

In a time of decreasing support for schools and pressures from high stakes testing, English language arts teachers are finding renewed energy for speaking out in support of best practices and educational philosophies that make a difference in kids' lives. This conference provides opportunities for teachers to strengthen their voices by participating in this community of learners, by connecting with other educators, and by using new knowledge to help students find their own voices through writing, reading, and digital/visual literacy.

We invite classroom teachers K-College to share their knowledge, their expertise in helping students become critical consumers and producers of literacy. We will accept proposals on a range of topics related to the conference theme, including:

- Poetry and the creative arts in giving students voice
- Popular culture, self-expression, and the English language arts
- Supporting the voices of culturally and linguistically diverse students
- Performance, drama, and the creative arts in the English classroom
- Fostering and enhancing forms of expression through digital, visual, and print literacies
- Encouraging student voices in the students' communities
- The role of audience and purpose in students' writing
- Voices of teachers, voices of students in the politics of English teaching
- New and tried-and-true classroom strategies for engaging students in learning

The "Bright Ideas" conference this past year had 400 attendees, mostly middle-school and secondary English teachers, elementary language arts teachers, and pre-service teachers. Conference participants are a wonderfully friendly and generous group of educators dedicated to learning, sharing, and teaching.

Visit our website at [www.msu.edu/~brightid](http://www.msu.edu/~brightid) for more information.

PROPOSAL TO PRESENT AT THE SPRING ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS CONFERENCE

# FINDING OUR VOICES

Return by January 14, 2005

Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle the type of proposal:**

- 1) Full 50-minute presentation
- 2) 25-minute presentation (to be paired with one on related topic)
- 3) 50-minute panel (for 3-5)
- 4) Poster session (see details below)

*The Bright Ideas Sampler* is a poster session, which is somewhat akin to a science fair in which projects are presented via poster display. Presenters will bring information to share in poster form and handouts to highlight and display something they have accomplished in class, some research they have done, or any practical *Bright Idea*. Posters will be set up in a room during one of the regular time slots and conference attendees can drop by during this time slot to browse and talk to the presenters about their work. To present in this session, you should:

- 1) have a topic or project that can be presented via posters and handouts;
- 2) generate a 1-2 page handout that shows highlights of your work;
- 3) be willing to stay with your display during one time slot and talk to conference attendees about your work.

**If this is a joint proposal, please include names and addresses of all participants here.**

**Circle type of format:**

Discussion    Demonstration    Workshop    Poster Session

**Circle all grade level(s) for which this presentation is appropriate:**

Elementary    Middle School    High School    Post-Secondary

**Technology Items (limited availability; no computer labs are available)**

Overhead projector and screen \_\_\_\_\_

Data projector, computer, and screen

- \_\_\_\_\_ will bring own data projector and computer; just need a suitable room with a screen;
- or \_\_\_\_\_ bringing own computer; need to have projector and screen provided by the conference (the conference will have only one projector available);
- or \_\_\_\_\_ need to have projector, Windows PC, and screen provided by the conference.

Internet connection, video data projector, computer, and screen (note: internet connection must be made on MSU computer, not on your own.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ will bring own data projector, and use Internet connection on Windows PC and screen provided by the conference;
- or \_\_\_\_\_ need to use data projector, screen, and Internet connection on Windows PC provided by the conference (the conference will have only one projector available).

**Please attach a brief summary of your proposal to this form and return the form by January 14, 2005, to Marilyn Wilson, Department of English, 201 Morrill Hall, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824.**

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# Language Arts Journal of Michigan

The Scholarly Journal of the  
Michigan Council of Teachers of English

## Spring/Summer 2005: Writing Matters

This issue focuses on writing and communication. We encourage any articles that situate writing as a centerpiece of the classroom. We particularly encourage articles that display

Innovative approaches to audience and purpose

Projects or classroom environments that encourage writing

Ways to teach students about issues of audience, purpose, and context and other higher-order concerns in writing

Innovative approaches to standards and testing in written communication

Discussions that expand writing into new realms, audiences, or genres

Submission Date: February 15, 2005

### Submit Manuscripts to:

Jonathan Bush

*Language Arts Journal of Michigan*

Department of English

Western Michigan University

Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5331

[jbush@wmich.edu](mailto:jbush@wmich.edu) (preferred)

## Fall/Winter 2005: In Search of *Best Practice*

We all believe in 'best practice;' some of us use it as a motto -- others as a way to describe the things we've come to know, value, and trust as the ways we best reach readers, writers, and students.

But what does it mean for each of us? What are our own 'best practices?' And where do they come from?

For this issue of the *LAJM*, we are seeking articles that

show examples of teachers' classroom practices that exemplify 'best practice' in writing, reading, literary instruction, and literacy in all classrooms. We are particularly interested in seeing classroom examples of teachers who have developed projects, activities, and programs that exemplify their own notions of 'best practice.'

create discussion about what 'best practice' is and how we, as teachers, can develop our own, theory and practice-based notions of it as teachers, scholars, and professionals.

Submission Date: August 15, 2005