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# Call for Manuscripts and Graphics

Michigan Reading Journal

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The *Michigan Reading Journal* is the peer-reviewed journal of the Michigan Reading Association, which is composed of and serves more than 6,000 classroom teachers, literacy specialists, educational leaders, teacher educators, and university faculty. The journal publishes on diverse topics related to literacy, including reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, visually representing, technology, and literature for children and young adults. Submissions are invited in any of the categories below.

**Bridging Research and Practice Articles:** Articles submitted in this category present original descriptions of research-based instruction that improves the literacy learning of students ranging from birth to college age. Articles describing research-based practices in literacy teacher education will also be considered. Manuscripts in this category must include 5-10 practical steps to guide readers in applying the research to their practice. Manuscript submissions should include APA formatted references to the relevant research literature and must not exceed 5,000 words in 12-point font. Any charts or graphics must be of high-quality and in black and white. These manuscripts undergo blind review by members of the journal's editorial review board.

**Voices from Michigan and Beyond:** Articles submitted in this category will showcase evidence-based literacy practices being implemented throughout the state in such varied spaces as classrooms, districts, libraries, after school programs, online schools, homes, daycares, preschools, ISDs/RESAs around Michigan. We are specifically interested in submissions from practitioners who can share tips and ideas about what is working in their context, why they are engaging in these ideas, and how others could do this, too. Our goal is to hear from a range of practitioners throughout the state who are interested in literacy. Manuscripts in this category should begin with an introduction to the authors and the context of their work, including a specific reference to the location in Michigan. Please also include APA formatted references to the relevant research literature, if appropriate to the piece. Manuscript submissions should be between 750 and 2500 words, double-spaced, and in 12-point font. Any charts or graphics must be of high-quality and in black and white. These manuscripts undergo blind review by members of the journal's editorial review board.

**Visual Artifacts and Graphics:** Submissions in this category share visual artifacts of literacy teaching practices through photos of teachers and students engaging in literacy, literacy projects, literacy, centers, and artifacts of student learning. Each image should be clear, in focus, of a high resolution/quality, and sent as a full-size jpeg or tiff file attachment, accompanied by a brief, 50-100 word description. Documents must be scanned, not photographed; the latter will not be of high enough quality for publication. By submitting an item in this category, the individual indicates that he/she has obtained consent from the district, school, teacher, parent, and child to use the image for publication. The journal's editorial team reviews submissions in this category.

**Letters to the Editors:** We invite and encourage your letters in response to what you have read in the *Michigan Reading Journal*. Did research presented help you better understand teaching and learning? Were you inspired to try a new teaching strategy? Are you still puzzling over a topic recently featured? Is there something you haven't seen in the journal that you want us to address? Let us hear from you, please. Letters may be edited, with author's permission, for publication.

**Nominations for Professional Books to Review:** We invite and encourage nominations of professional books to review for our Professional Books of Interest column. Please send book titles, author names, and year of publication to us via email with a brief 1-2 sentence description of what the book is about and why it should be reviewed in *MRJ*.

<u>**Review of Manuscripts**</u>

Below are the questions that the journal's Editorial Review Board members use when reviewing submitted research manuscripts and practitioner pieces focused on sharing teaching practices. The questions are intended to guide reviewers and help them shape their written summaries of feedback and recommendations regarding publication. The answers are forwarded to authors, along with the publication decision. The editorial team will provide feedback on spelling, grammar, mechanics, APA format, etc., so reviewers should focus their review and feedback on the more global guiding questions below. The guiding questions can also serve to help authors shape their manuscripts in order to meet standard for publication in *MRJ*.

## Part I: Guiding Questions

1. Does the article address an important or compelling topic for reading practitioners in Michigan? Why or why not?
2. Does the manuscript contain an appropriate blend of theory, research and practice? Are there ways to improve this balance?
3. Does the article offer practical implications or suggestions, based-in-research, that reading practitioners can implement? Are there additional implications that would improve the manuscript?
4. Does the manuscript include enough information on how-to practical steps for classroom or practitioner implementation (i.e., What can teachers do on Monday morning?)?
5. Will the article appeal to MRJ's diverse audience? What can be improved?
6. What are the revisions that you would recommend to improve this manuscript for our practitioner audience?
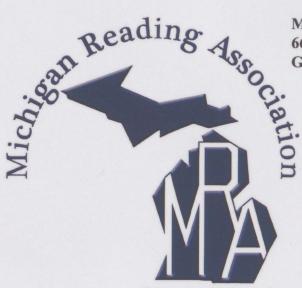
## Part II: Recommendation Regarding Publication

Reviewers mark recommendations by placing an X in the appropriate box below. Reviewer recommendations are not disclosed directly to the authors.

☐Accept          ☐Accept with Minor Revisions          ☐Revise Substantailly and Resubmit          ☐Reject

<u>**Submitting Your Work**</u>

All submissions should represent the author's original work, not be submitted for publication elsewhere, and follow guidelines as described above. All submissions should be sent electronically as email attachments to the journal's editorial team at MRJ@msu.edu . Manuscript submissions should be sent as Microsoft Word documents, and graphic submissions should be sent in black and white as jpeg or tiff files. Due to the blind review process, manuscripts should not include the author's name. A separate cover letter should be submitted as a Word document and should provide: a) title of submission; b) author's name; c) author's title/position; d) school/district affiliation; e) telephone number; f) email address; and g) up to 75 words of biographical information the author would like to share with readers regarding his/her professional work or background.

**Deadlines:** *The Michigan Reading Journal* is published three times yearly—fall, winter, and spring. Manuscripts are reviewed on a rolling basis.

# Michigan Reading Association

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A Michigan Non-profit Organization