

July 2021

Michigan Reading Journal General Call for Manuscripts & Graphics

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Recommended Citation

(2021) "Michigan Reading Journal General Call for Manuscripts & Graphics," *Michigan Reading Journal*: Vol. 53: Iss. 3, Article 16.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/mrj/vol53/iss3/16>

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Michigan Reading Journal

General Call for Manuscripts & Graphics

The *Michigan Reading Journal* is the peer-reviewed journal of the Michigan Reading Association, which is composed of and serves more than 3,000 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, though we are particularly interested in manuscripts that connect literacy and social justice or address new literacies (e.g., technology, graphic novels, podcasts, etc.).

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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 (including tables, figures and appendices; excluding reference list) in 12-point font and left-aligned. 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 the Region

Articles submitted in this category will showcase evidence-based literacy practices being implemented throughout the state and region in such varied spaces as classrooms, districts, libraries, after school programs, online schools, homes, daycares, preschools, ISDs/RESAs. 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 in and around 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. 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 (including tables, figures and appendices; excluding reference list), double-spaced, and in 12-point font and left-aligned. 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 e-mail with a brief 1-2 sentence description of what the book is about and why it should be reviewed in *MRJ*.

Reviews of Children's and Young Adult Books

Have a great book that you and your students love? We invite teachers of students of all ages to write and submit book reviews of children's and young adult books of any genre that have been published in the last year. Book reviews should be no more than 200 words in length.

Manuscript Review Process

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*.

Reviewers' Guiding Questions

- Does the article address an important or compelling topic for reading practitioners in Michigan? Why or why not?
- Does the manuscript contain an appropriate blend of theory, research and practice? Are there ways to improve this balance?
- 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?
- 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?)?
- Will the article appeal to MRJ's diverse audience? What can be improved?
- What are the revisions that you would recommend to improve this manuscript for our practitioner audience?

Submitting Your Work

To submit your article, you will need to create a Scholarworks account by clicking on the "Submit Article" link at <scholarworks.gvsu.edu/mrj>. Then, you will follow the instructions to submit a manuscript to the *Michigan Reading Journal*. Shortly afterward, you will receive an email confirming your submission.

The submission process consists of the following steps:

1. Read and accept the Article Submission Agreement
2. Provide information about yourself
3. Provide information about any authors
4. Upload your article and related items

Before you begin, please be sure you have the following items:

1. Article Title
2. An abstract (separate from the article body)
3. Keywords for your article (optional)
4. Article in Microsoft Word (.docx) format.

Also, please note that articles must be submitted without a title page, abstract, or page numbers. These will be provided by the system. This is especially important so that you do not include any identifying information about the authors, as the article you submit will be sent to reviewers. No part of the submission is final until all steps have been completed and you click the final Submit button. The review process begins as soon as *Michigan Reading Journal* receives a readable article, along with the abstract and article title. You will receive further communication from the editors after your submission is accepted into the system and prepared for peer review.

Deadlines: The *Michigan Reading Journal* is published three times yearly—fall, winter, and spring. Manuscripts are reviewed with deadlines of July 15 (fall issue), October 15 (winter issue), and February 15 (spring issue) each year.

