



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 manuscripts 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.).

The *Michigan Reading Journal* is published under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License, to allow for certain types of reuse without permission. By submitting to the *Michigan Reading Journal*, you will be asked to sign an author's permission statement that attests to the originality of your work and your willingness to publish under a Creative Commons License.

2023-2024 Journal Themes

The editorial team has named four themes of empowerment to carry across all issues of the 2023-24 academic year: literacy as community, agency, liberation, and joy.

- **Literacy as Community:** In what ways are you building community in your literacy context? What approaches have been successful at bringing students and educators together despite the challenges of the past several years? What new fields of research elevate the need for community as part of literacy education?
- **Literacy as Agency:** Agency implies a sense of direction and control over one's life and actions. In what ways are educators intentionally building upon students' sense of agency in literacy classrooms and settings? What barriers might exist in developing educator agency, and how are we working to address those barriers?
- **Literacy as Liberation:** We lift critical literacy as central to the work of education for equity and liberation in a diverse, democratic society. In what ways can we use literacy to dismantle oppression? How are you amplifying students' and literacy educators' voices despite outside pressures?
- **Literacy as Joy:** "Joy is an act of resistance," Michigan poet and educator Toi Dericotte reminds us. In what ways are you prioritizing joy in your school settings? For yourself as an educator? How can a commitment to joy sustain us during contentious times?

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 should 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.

Critical Issues

Articles submitted in this category highlight current issues of access, equity, power, and justice in literacy education and offer MRJ readers practical ways to navigate them. Manuscripts in this category should provide a description of the issue as well as guidance on making informed decisions to help teachers and students reach their full potential; submissions should be between 1000 and 5000 words (including tables, figures and appendices; excluding reference list).

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.

Reviews of Professional Books

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. If approved, we will work with you to create a review of the text, up to 1200 words in length.

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 can be up to 1200 words in length, and we recommend the "Writing a Book Review" resource on the [Purdue Online Writing Lab's website](#) for a list of questions and considerations that would be useful in crafting your review.

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?

Submissions may address other literacy-related topics of interest to the *Michigan Reading Journal* readership, as outlined in this CFP. We are now accepting submissions via our online journal system, coordinated with Scholarworks at GVSU. Please visit <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/mrj/> and click on "Submit Article" in the left-hand navigation menu.

For consideration in our three issues each year, we accept manuscripts on the following deadlines:

- For fall publication, we accept manuscripts through July 15th of each year.
- For winter publication, we accept manuscripts through October 15th of each year.
- For spring publication, we accept manuscripts through February 15th of each year.