



WRITING PARTNERS @ SAC STATE AT A GLANCE USER GUIDE



WHAT IS WRITING PARTNERS?

Writing Partners is a service learning experience that provides students with an opportunity to teach and learn through a letter exchange with students from elementary schools in the region (typically 5th graders). By the end of the semester, students will demonstrate the ability to compose, draft and write letters for a specific audience and a specific rhetorical situation as well as develop an understanding of their participation in this activity as having an impact on young people in their community.



WHAT IS THE ASSIGNMENT?

The core assignment is the semester-long letter exchange between the elementary school students and college students. The overall assignment sequence also contains a number of other writing and problem-solving assignments.

ASSIGNMENT OBJECTIVES



Audience Awareness



Community Awareness



Genre Awareness

ASSIGNMENT STRUCTURE



Audience Awareness

Discuss audience awareness & writing in a variety of situations



Partner

Partner college students with elementary students



Arrangements

Elementary teacher/principal arranges bus and chaperones for campus visit



Guidelines

Establish ground rules & goals of the letter exchange



Exchange

Exchange letters at least three times during the semester



Plan

College students plan campus visit for elementary students

Campus Visit: College students manage elementary students' visit to Sacramento State campus and elementary teachers and chaperones help to facilitate the visit



COLLEGE STUDENT RESPONSES

“ I think everyone should get a chance to participate in activities like these. It really allowed me to think about how my writing depends on my audience. I also was able to connect to the whole class more personally, which I thought was a great thing to happen. ”

“ It definitely enhanced my ability and forced me to improve because it was difficult to write to such a young audience. This helped me by truly making me focus on audience and expanding my range as a writer. ”

BENEFITS TO ELEMENTARY STUDENTS



✓ Writing to an authentic audience



✓ Document design



✓ Critical and creative thinking



✓ Course content and curricular connection



✓ Authority as a writer



✓ Positive connection to higher education



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AT SAC STATE

connected. engaged. committed.