



**COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES**

Rhetoric Department

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Council on Teaching
Teaching in Higher Education Travel Award

Will Jennings, Associate Professor of Instruction, Rhetoric Department

The timely support of the Council on Teaching allowed me to collaborate with colleagues whose combined classroom and instructional development experience exceed 110 years. Our Pedagogical Panel at the 2018 Association of Writers and Writing Programs in Tampa, FL, combined individual presentation of methods for integrating various research modes into the instruction of critical writing for at-risk, first generation, and non-native speaking students. My background with an MFA Creative Writing, Iowa '97 (NWP) and my 25 years of classroom instruction of undergraduates at UI in the NWP and GER Rhetoric, as well as having taught incarcerated populations in both Iowa and Maine, all shaped the core of my presentation and facilitation of the audience discussion which followed. The working title of my paper is: "Object, Gesture, and Transaction: Integrating Observation, Research, and Inquiry Through Personal Narrative Writing." This presentation and instructional approach/module began with an earlier presentation at CCCC and direct encouragement from colleagues in the field to continue developing, revising, and refining my work. Without the support of the Travel Award, I would not have been able to participate. Our presentation defied its time slot for the final hour of the last day of a busy and often exhausting conference. We filled an oversized room, engaging our audience such that our discussion extended well past our allotted time, spilled out into the hallways, and resulted in many valuable connections for future exchange and potential publication.


I will be sharing this work with my colleagues in the Rhetoric Department through developing a shorter series of writing and research nodes within a larger assignment module. I also will present a scaffold for organizing a sequence of instructional modules to enhance a themed-semester course, or as a way to integrate instructional modules that can adapt to the often widely varied abilities of our GER course members. The modules and assignment sequences will be published within our Department's Resources for Faculty ICON program: Rhetoric Refresh (uiowa.instructure.com/courses/98904). These will be published under the Creative Commons Licensing Program. I will also propose this presentation for a future Departmental Instructional Colloquia.

One of my creative scholarship works, "How I Know Orion," was anthologized in "I'll Tell You Mine: Thirty Years of Essays from the Iowa Nonfiction Writing Program" (University of Chicago Press, 2015) As part of this publication, each author was asked to include a short

'process piece' to discuss a challenge, issue, or impediment required both creative and critical thinking to bring the piece to final draft and this served as a narrative structure for my presentation, copies of which were made available for the panel audience.

Again, my most sincere thanks and gratitude for your support. Non-Tenured Faculty is hard-pressed to locate funding in support of their professional development---a critical area for our department as our faculty is overwhelmingly NTF Lecturers who must carry out nearly all of the internal departmental work while teaching a 24 Semester Hour/Year load. Our professional development has always fed our Department's capacity to adapt and innovate instructional methods to support student success and retention directly.

Sincerely and respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Jennings', with a stylized, flowing script.

Will Jennings, Associate Professor of Instruction
Creative Campus Institute Fellow