

The possible missions of writing programs

CCCC writing program certificate of excellence (www.ncte.org/about/awards/conf/cccc)

Joe Harris Duke University Writing Program joseph.harris@duke.edu www.duke.edu/~jdharris

What is the mission of the WPA?

Organizational consultants tell you to make three things clear in writing a mission statement: the *purpose* of your group, or what you seek to do or change; your actual *programs* or business; and the *values* you associate with your work. While it isn't our job, thankfully, to write a mission statement at Fort Caswell, I still think we might find these categories useful in focusing the conversation we hope to have there about the possible missions of the WPA:

- *Purpose*: What role does the writing program play in the education of students and in the professional lives of teachers? How might a WPA work to augment or change this role?
- *Programs*: What set of courses and services does the writing program offer? Basic writing? First-year writing? Advanced writing? Tutoring? ESL? Writing across the curriculum? Teacher development? Placement? Assessment? How can a WPA negotiate the tension between the need (or desire) to do so many different things and the need to make sure that they are done well?
- *Values*: In what ways are the experiences of students in writing courses informed by recent research on writing and its teaching? How can a WPA try to align the day-to-day work of students and teachers with the values and best practices of our field?

My hope is that these questions will help each of us to define the scope of work that we want to take on as a WPA as well as our reasons for doing so. I look forward to talking with you!

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Purpose

What do you seek to accomplish?

Students	Teachers	College or department
Address needs (i) Appropriate class size (viii) Distinctive features in the student and/or faculty experience (c) Materials that lead to desirable learning outcomes (e) Sample syllabi (4)	Professional development (ii) Treats contingent faculty respectfully, humanely, and professionally (iii) In-house professional development (5)	Effective assessment (vi) Effective placement (vii) Strategic alliance with campus units (g)

Programs

What courses or services do you provide?

Basic Writing First-Year Writing Advanced Writing Writing Center WAC/WID ESL Faculty/TA Development Teaching and Technology Placement Assessment

Values

How do your services reflect the values of your field and local situation?

Rhet-Comp/CCCC/WPA Administrator has academic credentials in writing (v) Program has conducted research (a) Exhibits coherence in terms of disciplinary expectations (b) Effectively integrates theory and practice (d) Principles underlying the program (3)	State/University/College/Department Models diversity/serves diverse communities (ix) Valued community service (f) Demonstrated success and measures (8) Institutionalization and sustainability (9) Effective operation (10)
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