

July 27-August 1, 2025

Minnowbrook Conference Center,
Blue Mountain Lake

Rate for Attendance:

\$1595/single room

Graduate Credit: \$210 (SUPA trained
instructors only)

Contact:

Sean M. Conrey (smconrey@syr.edu)

Minnowbrook

Special Topics Workshops

2025

Syracuse University

Project Advance

ENG 600: Teaching Writers, Not Writing: Pedagogies for the Post-Pandemic Generation (Dressing)

"Students today just don't care about writing." How many of us have heard this statement, or even thought it ourselves, in the years since the pandemic and as generative AI has entered our classrooms? At the same time, we know that students do care about the writing that they do every day outside of our classrooms; they value words, just not the ones that they write for class.

In this workshop, rather than interrogating why students aren't engaged with our assignments, we will start from a different question: why do we assign student writing in the first place? What do we want student writers to do? In his seminal text on writing centers, Stephen North argues that the job of the writing center is to produce better writers, not better writing. How might a similar approach in our classrooms shift our instruction to more effectively contend with current challenges?

This workshop seeks to productively engage with these questions by designing and trying out writing activities; developing models for discussions of audience, craft, and voice; and analyzing readings drawn from various disciplines and genres. The goal of our individual and collaborative work will be to situate our classroom pedagogies within a writer-focused framework that contends with individual students' needs, but also works to scale those needs into complete lesson plans that ask students to think of themselves as writers engaging in meaningful communicative acts.



Emily Dressing

*Associate Teaching
Professor & Director
of Writing Across the
Curriculum, Syracuse
University*



Jesse Nissim

Poet and
teacher at
Manlius Pebble
Hill School

ENG 600: Documentary Poetics in Practice (Nissim)

In this workshop we will explore various forms of writing that contend with facts and truths in unexpected ways. Immersing ourselves in the reading and writing of lyric experiments that cross genre boundaries, this workshop will focus on craft and pedagogies of truth-telling that can enliven our own practice as writers as well as inform our pedagogies as creative writing teachers. Together, we will investigate different strategies for leaning into historical, journalistic, narrative, lyric, and fictional impulses in order to locate and articulate the truths we find most urgent and compelling. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions about craft and content as we read documentary poetics texts, and then begin to create our own. Participants' generative work can take any form they see fit and we will collaborate to build a thoughtful, supportive space to take risks and follow lines of inquiry that will enrich our own writing and teaching practices. Instructors are equally welcome; no prior experience is necessary.

Syracuse University

Project Advance

Registration Information

Special Topics Workshops (July 27-August 1, 2025)

To enroll for this year's Minnowbrook Conference, please fill out the form online by either going directly to the website at:

<http://tiny.cc/minnowbrook2025>

Or clicking on the QR code at right:



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Tuition and Fees:

The fee structure below includes room and board, use of the Minnowbrook facilities, and workshop fees (deposit due by June 27, 2025):

- ☐ Single Workshop \$1,595 (\$75 deposit)

Graduate Credit:

SUPA certified instructors have the added option of registering for Syracuse University graduate credit at the reduced tuition of \$210 for 3 credit hours. Please email Molly Murphy (suparegistration@syr.edu) to be issued a graduate credit form and for graduate credit payment instructions. Do **not** include payment for graduate credit with conference registration payment.

Possible Workshops

- ENG 600: Teaching Writers, Not Writing (Dressing)
- ENG 600: Documentary Poetics (Nissim)

Syllabi, required textbook lists, and any course readers for the workshops will be sent to participants upon receipt of registration.

Payment Information:

Invoice will be sent by email once online form has been filled out

Minnowbrook Conference Center



This unique 28-acre retreat—owned and operated by Syracuse University—is a multiple building complex designed in rustic charm with modern amenities.

This summer's advanced workshops will be held at Minnowbrook and include:

ENG 600: Teaching Writers, Not Writing (Dressing)

ENG-600: Documentary Poetics (Nissim)

minnowbrook.org

Registration Contact:

Ashley Dening (andening@syr.edu)

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