

Introduction to the MAWCA 2015 Conference – “SHARING SPACES” brainstorm assignment

I am in the initial stages of planning a field trip for us to go to the Mid-Atlantic Writing Centers Association (MAWCA) 2015 conference at James Madison University on Fri/Sat April 10-11 (staying overnight in Harrisonburg – cost per student will be somewhere between \$100 and \$200, depending on how many attend). More information coming on that, but check your calendars to at least see if you are free that weekend and have interest in attending. It is pretty cool to experience a professional conference and meet people from all over the region who are doing what you’re doing (most of them at the college level!).

Last year eleven of us attended MAWCA 2014 at Salisbury University only as audience members. This year I would be thrilled if some of you would like to submit proposals to present at the conference! Proposals are not due until January 15, so you have some time to think about it, but for now, do some initial brainstorming on the conference theme below. Here is the text from the conference website (<http://mawcaconference.wix.com/mawca2015>):

PROPOSALS

Conference Theme: **Sharing Spaces**

By design, Writing Centers involve the sharing of spaces, internally and externally. They share theoretical space with writing studies, education, psychology, and other areas of study. They share territory with all disciplines that require writing. They share physical space with academic units or campus services. They share faculty with other departments. Within the Center, space might be shared by teaching faculty, graduate assistants, and undergraduate peer tutors. Within the tutoring session, tutor and tutee share a generative space of ideas and writing craft. We invite MAWCA 2015 presenters to explore these and other shared spaces of writing center work.

We invite you to [submit a proposal](#) for an individual paper, group panel, or workshop that contributes to ongoing discussions about sharing space in writing center work. Special preference will be given to empirical research, interdisciplinary work, and experimental session formats.

Proposals are due January 15, 2015.



Keep in mind that presentations at these types of conference have a range – some presenters conduct empirical on an aspect of writing center work that interests them and present on it, some presenters present more anecdotal observations about what happens in their own center, some presenters teach the audience a new strategy, some presenters take a more artistic/creative/outside-of-the-box approach. As you do your free-write for next week’s class (11/13 or 11/14), “brain dump” anything you can think of that relates to the theme above, as long as it relates (even indirectly) to tutoring, writing centers, learning, writing, etc. In next week’s class, we’ll see if there are any topics that people would like to pursue further either individually or in small groups.

On the back of this page is the actual online form you would need to fill out if you decide to submit a proposal. I will help you with this if you do decide to submit a proposal.

MAWCA 2015 Proposal Submission Form

* Required

Name(s) of Presenter(s) and Title(s) *

Name of Institution *

E-mail Address *

Phone Number *

Presentation Format *

Special Interest Group (SIG) or special interest presentation with your writing center colleagues and peers as a type of Special Interest. We encourage suggestions for SIG that you would like to facilitate as part of the conference.

Session Title *

Session Proposal (max 400 words) *

Session Abstract (max 50 words) *