

Why Do We Need a National Conversation on Writing?

Many stories in the media would have us think of writing as a one-size-fits-all skill, learned once and used repeatedly, a skill used only in school or at work.

Many stories in the media continue to bemoan the declining writing skills of students and graduates.

These stories and many educators' responses to them are creating generations of "battered writers" who fear or resist writing, see no value in writing, and do not consider themselves to be writers.

We want to change these stories and their results.

We believe that writing is important, necessary, useful, generative, and transformative, worth doing and learning.

We believe that everyone is a writer, producing many kinds of writing, for many different reasons.

We believe that writers use many different forms, different kinds of media, and often multiple kinds of media.

We believe that writing
enhances learning,
enriches thinking,
creates and sustains community,
motivates important actions,
battles oppression and inspires justice, and
enables us to discern what we know and to discover what we need to know.

We believe that writing is a powerful tool that we use for myriad purposes.

Consider all that we do with writing: think, learn, create, share, reflect, express opinions and emotions, connect with others, create and sustain community, motivate others and ourselves, remember, celebrate, report, defend, promote, persuade, convince, inform, analyze, evaluate, lead, serve.

Join us in a national conversation on writing that
promotes the power and complexity of writing,
spreads the word that everyone is a writer,
advances the work of literacy educators and the writing practices of students, and
changes an old and tired story.

Share your story of writing or take heart in someone else's: <http://ncow.org>