



# Writing Program Administration

*Journal of the  
Council of Writing Program Administrators*

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The Council of Writing Program Administrators is a national association of college and university faculty who serve or have served as directors of first year composition or writing programs, coordinators of writing centers and writing workshops, chairpersons and members of writing-program-related committees, or in similar administrative capacities. The Council of Writing Program Administrators is an affiliate of the Association of American Colleges and the Modern Language Association.

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## Author's Guide

*WPA: Writing Program Administration* publishes articles and essays concerning the organization, administration, practices, and aims of college and university writing programs. Possible topics include the education and support of writing teachers; the intellectual and administrative work of WPAs; the situation of writing programs within both academic institutions and broader contexts; the programmatic implications of current theories, technologies, and research; relationships between WPAs and other administrators and between writing and other academic programs; placement; assessment; and the professional status of WPAs.

The previous list is meant to be suggestive, not exhaustive, but contributions must be appropriate to the interests and concerns of those who administer writing programs. The editors welcome empirical research (quantitative as well as qualitative), historical research, and theoretical, essayistic, or reflective pieces.

The length of submissions should be approximately 2000 to 5000 words, although the journal occasionally will publish shorter or longer pieces when the subject matter warrants. Articles should be suitably documented using the current MLA Style Manual. Please submit three copies of manuscripts, with the author identified only on a separate cover letter. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like a copy returned. Submissions are anonymously reviewed by the Editorial Board. The editors aspire to respond within three months after the receipt of the submission.

*WPA* publishes reviews of books related to writing programs and their administration. Publishers are invited to send appropriate professional books to Dennis Lynch, who assigns reviews.

Authors whose works are accepted for publication will be asked to submit final versions in both print and electronic form. Articles should be saved on 3.5 inch disks as text files (files using the extension .txt). Tables should be saved in the program in which they were produced; authors should indicate program type on the disk. Illustrations should be submitted as camera-ready-copy. Authors will also be asked to submit a 100-word biography for inclusion in the "Notes on Contributors" section of the journal.

Relevant announcements and calls for papers are also acceptable. Announcement deadlines are: Fall/Winter issue, October 15; Spring issue, March 15.

Advertisers should contact Marguerite Helmers for deadlines and publication rates.

Address articles and editorial correspondence to Dennis Lynch, Co-Editor *WPA*, Humanities, Michigan Technological University, 1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931. E-mail: [dalynch@mtu.edu](mailto:dalynch@mtu.edu).

Address advertising issues to Marguerite Helmers, Co-Editor, *WPA*, Department of English, 800 Algoma Boulevard, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901. E-mail: [helmers@uwosh.edu](mailto:helmers@uwosh.edu).

## Letter from the Editors

It's become commonplace for members of the WPA executive board to speak of the year 2000 as "something of an anniversary for WPA." With that in mind, we would like to announce proudly that this *is* an anniversary for WPA: *Writing Program Administration*, marking the twentieth year that the journal has been published peer-reviewed articles in journal format. Harvey Wiener, then President of the Council of Writing Program Administrators, predicted in WPA 3.3 (Spring 1980) that the "1979-80 academic year will prove to be the richest so far in WPA's history." First, announced Wiener, was the introduction of "this splendid journal," the first red volume. Most of us remember the red volumes; many of us have them tucked carefully away in our own periodical archives.

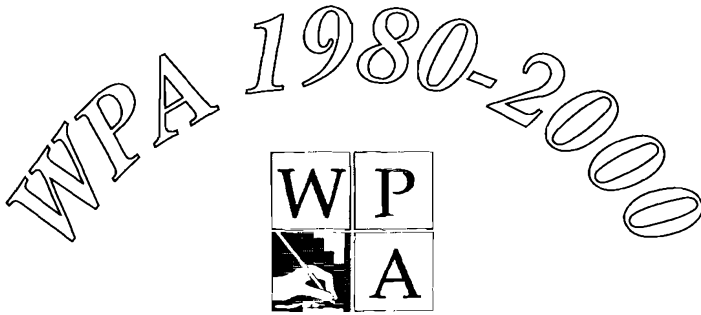
Prior to 1980, the WPA organization had published a newsletter. Its contents were an editorial, meeting minutes, the bylaws, and announcements. WPA 3.3, on the other hand, listed three articles and four authors in its table of contents: "The contribution of Administrative Leadership to Academic Excellence" by Walter Jewell, "Training Writing Lab Tutors" by Jennie Skerl, and "Large-Scale Testing," a two-part article featuring analysis by Edward White and Alice Brekke. One also notices in that first issue of the journal an effort to recognize WPA's history, for, following the notes on contributors and the announcements are three important lists that seem to signal the movement of the organization and the journal into a wider audience: the cumulative subject index of WPA volumes 1-3, the past members of the WPA Executive Committee, the past members of the WPA Editorial Board.

In order to honor our past, we have printed the names of the members of the 1980 Editorial Board and the 1980 WPA Executive Committee in this issue. This year, we honor the work of those first writers, readers, editors, and publishers, without whose enthusiasm and dedication we would not be here today. We also thank all the members of the current Editorial Board, who volunteer their time and their insights unflinchingly.

The 1999-2000 academic year has proved to be fruitful for WPAs as publishers. We can mark our growth as an organization by welcoming several books on administration into the fold, among them Diana George's *Kitchen Cooks, Plate Twirlers, and Troubadors* and Shirley Rose and Irwin Weiser's *The Writing Program Administrator as Researcher*. WPA is happy, therefore, to offer something new in this issue: reviews by WPAs of WPA publications.

This summer, as you gather at the WPA Summer Conference or curl up with WPA 23.3 on your lounge chair, revisit the invitation from Ken Bruffee to the readers of his journal in 1980. We've reprinted it here and its questions are simple, direct, and, perhaps, eternal: who are you? where do you direct a writing program? what concerns you in your corner of the world? We'll publish some of the replies in the fall issue of the journal, WPA 24.1.

Happy Twentieth Anniversary WPA!  
Marguerite Helmers & Dennis Lynch



**1980**

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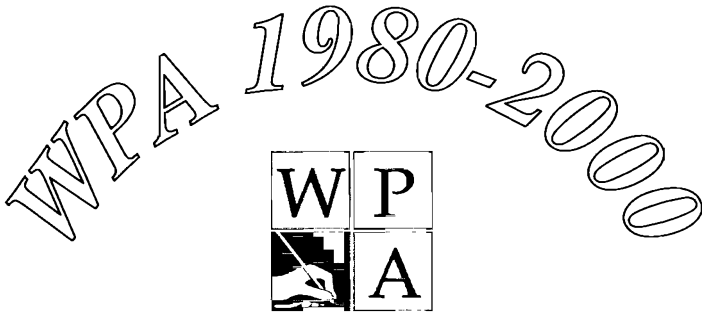
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**1980**

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*Volume 3, Number 3 Spring 1980*

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*In 1980, the first editor of WPA: Writing Program Administration, Ken Bruffee, posed nine questions to WPA readers, asking them to talk about the conditions under which they worked and the job that they found themselves doing. These were the days before the listserv WPA-L became the lifeline of professional program administrators. In the intervening twenty years we can see that the same desire is expressed: to connect with others, to gather knowledge about other programs, to predict and prepare for the future. Only a few years ago, members of the WPA editorial board expressed an interest in connecting the concerns of WPAs who participate in the online discussions with the issues that the journal addresses. It seems appropriate, then, in this twentieth-anniversary year, to reinvoke Ken Bruffee's original questions to readers. We invite you to peruse the questions below and to respond to these most essential questions about the working life.*

1980

## *A Query to Readers*

---

Kenneth Bruffee

*Revisited by Marguerite Helmers  
and Dennis Lynch, 2000*

One purpose of WPA is to discover and address issues of interest to writing program administrators. The people who know the issues are writing program administrators themselves. In many cases WPAs are also the people who can best address the issues informatively and cogently. In some cases we should look beyond our training and immediate experience for expertise which we can adapt to help us do the job better.

The following questions are intended to help WPA readers think through their needs as writing program administrators.

I would appreciate hearing your answers to these questions and to any other questions you think should have

been on the list. When you write, please also indicate what your rank and status are, e.g., tenured, nontenured, tenure-bearing line, one-year contract, part time, so that we can begin getting a better idea of the positions held by writing program administrators.

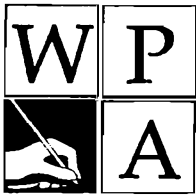
- What don't you know about doing your job that you wish you did?*
- What have you finally learned that you wish you had learned earlier?*
- What would you like to know more about?*
- Who do you think could tell you more about it?*
- What are your major administrative problems right now?*
- What problems do you see coming over the horizon?*
- How would you characterize your relationship with your department chair? Dean? President? Board of trustees? Legislature? Faculty at large?*
- What do you like best about your present program or the way you run it?*
- What direction would you like your program to take?*
- What are the major barriers to developing it in that direction?*

*Dennis Lynch, Marguerite Helmers, and the editorial board invite current WPA members to share their responses to Ken Bruffee's 1980 queries in writing. We will publish selected responses in the Fall 2000 issue of WPA: Writing Program Administration. Send your responses to Marguerite Helmers by e-mail <helmers@uwosh.edu> or regular mail:*

Department of English  
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh  
800 Algoma Boulevard  
Oshkosh, WI 54901

*In order to bring many voices into the fore, please limit your response to 500 words.  
Responses are due October 1, 2000*





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