

Kansas English

Call for Submissions

Struggling Students – Struggling Teachers

“Model students are not the norm, easy teaching is a dream, and we are left, for better or worse, as struggling teachers with struggling students.”

Submissions Due: June 1, 2011

Send submissions to kansasenglish@gmail.com

The editors of *Kansas English* invite you to submit your work to our journal, which is published by the Kansas Association of Teachers of English. We have identified one focus theme for this issue -- **struggling students and struggling teachers** – and we offer eleven additional prompts for you to consider as well. We invite you to write to our target theme or explore the additional prompts.

Target Theme: *Struggling Students, Struggling Teachers*

Schools are not only for those who easily succeed. We face this fact in our public schools, our junior colleges, and even in many of our universities. In response to this challenge, we seek to understand, to accommodate, to adjust to all types of students who struggle when they walk through the door. And these struggles come in many forms, from the resentful student who defies our efforts at connection, to those who arrive unprepared to negotiate the curriculum due to issues related to culture, learning disabilities, and second-language challenges.

So, this is a call to investigate that disruptive intersection – the place where model students are not the norm, where the idea of easy teaching is a dream, where we are left, for better or worse, as struggling teachers with struggling students. As with every issue of *Kansas English*, we welcome multiple treatments of our theme, from poetry to exposition, from book reviews to research, from narrative to effective lesson plans.

Kansas English is edited by Andy Anderson, Matt Bova, Matt Copeland, William Sewell, and Kristen Worthington

Additional prompts for you to consider:

1. The Difference it Makes – This category is intended for writing that demonstrates the difference it makes when we take one perspective over another, implement one practice over another, adopt one theory over another, etc.
2. Making the Case – Consider this the place for the classic editorial essay. Take a position, advance an argument, persuade our readers, etc.
3. Recommended Practice – From effective short lesson plans to entire units of study, this is the place to spotlight and share those things that work in your classroom.
4. Taking a Chance – Personal essays and scholarly articles in which the consequences of stepping into the unknown, letting go of the familiar, and taking a risk turn out to yield interesting results.
5. The 21st Century Teacher – All efforts centered on what it means to learn and teach in the 21st century belong here, from speculative essays about how technology is shaping our understanding of learning as well as practical plans for how to teach to 21st century students.
6. Beyond Our Borders -- Essays that reflect on what we learn when we travel across borders, both the geographical ones that define cultures and countries, the intellectual lines that separate types of knowledge into specific departments and colleges, and the metaphorical and emotional ones that shape how we think about our professional lives.
7. The Reflective Practitioner – What do we say when we look hard at what we do? What do we write when we stay silent long enough to write at length about this exceedingly difficult career we have chosen for ourselves?
8. Good Reading – Consider this the place for book reviews of any sort and any length, from paragraph length blurbs letting our readers know about a book you couldn't put down, to recommendations of books your students love, to lengthier reviews of books that bear on our profession.
9. Out of Conference – We are looking to feature the work of those tireless people who make our KATE conference work. You can't say everything in a 50-minute session, so here is your chance to go into greater detail or extend the conversation you started.
10. Featured Poets – Our designated poetry editor selects individual poems to be placed throughout our journal and, on occasion, may pursue a showcase the of work one poet in a featured article format.
11. Baked in Kansas – poetry about Kansas, meditations on place, updates and interviews with noteworthy Kansans from the field of language arts, features on Kansas authors (including book reviews), informative updates on Kansas curriculum and funding issues.