

Newsletter Date  
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# DTWT News

<http://www.sabes.org/central/DTWT.htm>

*DTWT (Do the Write Thing) is the student writing project of Central MA (CMA) SABES. SABES is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Education*

## Dates to Remember

- [December 21, 2007](#)  
Writing Submission  
Deadline
- [January 14 through  
February 15, 2008](#)  
Submissions  
Evaluated by  
Editorial Board
- [Mid-April, 2008](#)  
Acceptance Letters  
Sent Out
- [May 14, 2008](#)  
Authors' Reception

## Reminder – December 21 is the deadline for submitting writings for DTWT 2008!

Of course we understand that “things happen” and we will assist you as much as we can. Please email Joanne Harrington, [joanneh@gcc.mass.edu](mailto:joanneh@gcc.mass.edu) if she can be of help.

## DTWT in the Computer Lab

Guiding your students through an introduction to the DTWT website not only can motivate them to improve their writing but can also give them practice using their computer skills. Why not try a scavenger hunt type activity! You could include... Find the date of the authors' reception... Find two creative writing ideas... How many Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are there... etc.

The DTWT website can also be used for some specific skill building activities. How about... Save your favorite student writings in Favorites... Clear pop-up blockers... Cut and paste a student writing from last year into a Word document... and then send it as an email attachment. The possibilities seem endless.

We'd love to hear from a technology coordinator of ways the website and the DTWT process can be used to improve learner technology skills. Send your ideas to [cgannon@gcc.mass.edu](mailto:cgannon@gcc.mass.edu)

## Great Job Meeting the Deadline!

Joanne's email box is just brimming with student submissions – so many arriving even before the deadline! We understand how difficult meeting this deadline often is and send a hearty “Job Well Done” to you all (teachers and students). There is much work ahead for the student editors and our web and publication teams. Their work can now begin.



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of Education*

## My Experiences with Being Published

by Nannette Flagg, GED Student, QCC Workplace Program

*As you have likely noted DTWT News highlights the value of Adult Learners" participating in this project. At last we have asked the right person... we've asked a student to share her thoughts with you! Thank you Nannette!*

I came here with NO self esteem and didn't think I could do anything right. This program has taught

me that it is okay to be scared but at the same time, I needed to do things different then before. So when I wrote my poem, I automatically thought I could never win, but I did, and that gave me confidence to try it again. I won again. So if you are like me and lack confidence in yourself it's okay. Somebody once told me, "If you don't believe in yourself just

believe that somebody else believes in you in order to ask you to try." So in closing, just remember nothing beats a failure so try. Go for it, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

### Contact information for DTWT SABES Coordinators

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## Dear Ms. Doowrite Right

*Dear Ms. Doowrite Right,*

The student writings are coming along wonderfully but –yikes – it's the deadline this week. Why can't we have a later deadline? The Authors' Reception and publication of the book isn't until May!

♪ "Please Just a Little More Time" ♪

*Dear Little More Time,*

Oh dear, the only solution I can come up with is to have students attend classes during the summer and thus gain a couple of months for writing time. I am not being *wise* (in the negative sense) but the bottom line is that there just isn't enough time available to have a later submission deadline.

In January the next stage begins... cataloguing all the writings, gathering signed permissions, pictures – all this after the editorial teams do their scoring of the submissions! At least 275 submissions are expected this year – and each writing is scored by three different editorial team members!

Production entails getting all writings print ready, correctly identified, and off to the printer. Then each book is bound in a two step process with a manual spiral binder! Letters to all students (to their teachers and program directors too) who submit are also sent out. Oops, almost forgot

all the arrangements that must be made for the Author's Reception.

Whew, I'm tired just writing all this down!

I am amazed that in such a short time, students produce wonderful writings and all the details of honoring their hard work get done on time. It is surely successfully only because of the team effort of the program staff, DTWT editors, and SABES staff.

Room for improvement? Of course – let me know your ideas.