

*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

- January 14 through February 15, 2008  
Submissions Evaluated by Editorial Board
- Mid-April, 2008  
Acceptance Letters Sent Out
- May 14, 2008  
Authors' Reception

## Where Have All the Writings Gone? *by Joanne Harrington*

Now that the submission deadline for DTWT has passed, you may wonder "Where have all the writings gone?"

When a writing is submitted it comes to me. My first step is to catalog each submission with it's own unique number. This number will be the only identifying information that will go to the editorial boards. Because I need all the information for later in the process I log in each writing so that I can sort all the submissions by student name, teacher, title, and program. As soon as this information is entered I send the writing

to one of the DTWT editors who logs it onto the website.

My work continues as I log in the permission slips. This step is so important that I always check and double check and hunt down permission forms that are missing.

Meanwhile, the editorial teams are ready and waiting for their work! Each writing submission is scored by three different editorial teams so the number of student writings I am juggling in fact triples! This year over 900 rubrics will be completed by the editorial team

members. Since each team has a different number of students on it divvying up the writings requires careful attention.

I will receive the 900 completed rubrics by the February 15 deadline (hopefully) and then will match them to the student writer, record scores and *(cont. on page 2)*



## Not Published – Then What?! *by Jo Sundin*

As a teacher; you have helped your students come up with ideas for writing topics. You have fine tuned their pieces by using a rubric. You have listened to your students present their writings to one another in class. You have encouraged them to submit their work to DTWT! Now, it is out of their hands and we all wait for the outcome.

Of course, if your student's piece is chosen for print publication, there

is great pride in this accomplishment. Words of praise are in order, and both of you are excited. But what if your student's piece is not selected?? How do you handle this?

First, it's always important to congratulate the student authors for their courage and efforts in participating in DTWT. Remind them that it takes a brave person to put themselves and their thoughts out in public. Acknowledge that no

matter what, they have succeeded in producing something of their very own, and that it's something to be proud of.

Remind your students that all of the submitted writings are posted on the DTWT website, regardless of whether they make this year's printed edition or not. In essence, everyone is published for all to see and read. During computer time your class *(cont. on page 2)*



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**Not Published – Then What?! (cont. from page 1)**

**Writing Tips**

- Don't write from a template as in cloze exercises. Example: I am from \_\_\_\_\_. I've been here for \_\_\_\_.
- Don't write on the same topic. Example: My dream house is..... (Remember your audience. These types of stories can be repetitive.
- Have students write from personal experience.

can take a look at the DTWT website from last year and see all the writings and student pictures.

Do something special! You could compile all of the writings that were

submitted to you and create a class book. Take a moment with your class and vote on a name for the publication; for example, "Our Voices". If you wish to take it even one step further, you can even invite their friends

and family to class, so that they can read their stories aloud.

The important thing to remember is the process of writing. This in itself is an accomplishment. Getting published in DTWT is just icing on the cake!

**Where Have All the Writings Gone (cont. from page 1)**

figure out the average score of the three rubrics. The submissions are selected for publication based upon the average score for each submission.

The last step in the submission and selection

process is that I will send out notification letters to all students who submitted, to their teachers, and to their program directors. Certificates of Accomplishment will accompany the letters to students whose writings

will not be published. These letters go out in April. I take a breath and begin preparing the writings for publication and making the arrangements for the Author's Receptions in May.

*Joanne Harrington is an Administrative Assistant at CMA SABES and a member of the SABES DTWT team.*



**Dear Ms. Doowrite Right**

*Dear Ms. Doowrite Right,*  
Please, help me keep my New Year Resolution! I have resolved that (at least as far as my work stuff goes) I will procrastinate no longer. All my students submitted writings for DTWT. I am wondering if there is some way that I can be all ready to help them move to "the next step" in the process if they receive a letter that they will be published? No more gray hairs for me in 2008 due to last minute craziness!!

*Bee Prepared*

*Dear Bee,*  
What a commendable

resolution you have made! You can keep your resolution by doing a few things to prepare your student writers for possible publication. The best thing is that doing these preparatory activities in the classroom can benefit all the students.

Students who are accepted for publication will be told in their announcement letter that they have to send in a brief biography and picture of themselves as soon as possible. How about your students working in pairs to write brief bios as intro to

biographical writing in general. You could link it to themes of leadership, goal accomplishment, US history.

Getting student author pictures in the past has sometimes been a hassle. Can you think of ways to integrate digital photography (yes, that's technology) into a lesson? Ask your tech coordinator for his/her ideas. If your program doesn't have a digital camera, I bet some of your students do. Step one – take a picture of each student in your class (maybe to put on their

goals charts). Then you are all set to email to us the pictures needed for DTWT when the time is right.

Keep up the good work and don't forget to share your own ideas of ways to have those bios and pictures ready and waiting to send in!

*Always a pleasure,  
Ms. Doowrite Right*

**Editors Note: This year we will only be able to accept digital photos.**

