

"The English Major:  
Where Practicality meets  
Passion"

August 12, 2024

Dear ELA teacher,

**Undergraduate Programs**

BA in English

Concentrations in:

Creative Writing

Professional &  
Technical Writing

English Education

Minor in Comparative  
Literature

Minor in English Literature

Minor in Creative Writing

Minor in Professional &  
Technical Writing

Certificate in Professional  
& Technical Writing

**Graduate Programs**

Master of Arts in English

Master of Fine Arts in  
Creative Writing

Connie L. Lurie  
Distinguished Visiting  
Author-in-Residence

Center for Literary Arts

Martha Heasley Cox  
Center for Steinbeck  
Studies

Reed Magazine

Because we know how important it is for pre-service teachers to be observing in the "real world" of English teachers and classrooms, I have designed a field experience component in ENGL 112 B: Literature for Young Adults for students planning on entering SJSU's English Credential Program. This component is part of the 4<sup>th</sup> credit enhancement for the course. I am asking my students to observe a minimum of **ten hours** in English classes, when teachers are teaching literature. On the Block schedule, I know that you do a range of activities within the period, so I'm asking that the students observe the portion where you are teaching, discussing, and/or writing about literature.

Having taught high school and middle school English, I know you are very busy, so primarily I'm asking that you sign and date a form that will validate my students' observation time in your classroom. If you are able to or want to be more involved, sharing with the SJSU student observers about your teaching and providing any hands-on experience will really enrich their pre-service learning, but this additional involvement needs to be at your pleasure. If you would like the student to teach a mini-lesson involving YA Literature, that would be a wonderful opportunity; for example, students from my course would be able to do book talks or author talks or guide the selection of books for book clubs or literature circles. I am happy to assist in any way I can to make this a valuable experience for you and your students and these future teachers.

I'm enclosing a description of the Field Experience Component, so you can see what my students are expected to do. I hope you are able to assist these future English teachers so they can be better prepared to be your colleagues in the field of English Education. Thank you in advance for your help and feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

  
Mary Warner

Professor of English/Co-Director of the English Credential Program