

Marion Thomas

rainonrooftopsreview.com · hattiesburgwritinginstitute.com

Educator with 16 + years of teaching English. Experience teaching composition, rhetoric, and 20th century literature. Possesses TEFL certification, TEFL and ESL teaching experience, and excellent communication skills. Experience in printmaking and theatre, acting and play directing.

Education

May 2012

MFA. Master of Fine Arts in Creative Nonfiction. Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. Graduated *Cum Laude*. Fall 2010 completed graduate course ENG 664, *Teaching College Composition*. Collaborative Project: *Feasibility Report for Implementing Business Writing* in FYC course. Created Teaching Portfolio with lesson plans, Observation Report, and Teaching Philosophy.

Dec 2002

B.A. Bachelor of Liberal Studies with a concentration in English. Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, GA. Graduated *Cum Laude*. Honors Program Graduate.

June 1990

Diploma in Instrumental Music. *Oboe major.* Fiorello H LaGuardia, High School of Music & Performing Arts in New York, NY.

Professional Experience

Jan 2019 – Apr 2019

Substitute Teacher, Kelly Educational Staffing. Starkville, MS.
Teach middle and high school students. Execute lesson plans.

Aug 2018 – Nov 2018

Foreign Teacher, The State Administration of Foreign Expert Affairs. Dexing, China.
Provided English instruction in reading, writing, grammar, listening, speaking, and pronunciation for primary and middle school children. Taught 28 classes per week; 1,529 students at No. 2 Middle and Tongdu Middle School. Taught English for one-week at No. 5 Primary School. Facilitated English workshops for Local (Chinese) English Teachers. Provided TEFL training for adult educators.

April 2018 – July 2018

International Teacher, English First.
Provided English instruction in reading, writing, grammar, listening, speaking, and pronunciation for K-6 grade children.

Feb 2018 – Present

Editor-in-Chief, *Rain on Rooftops Review.* Online Literary Journal. Plan and manage operations. Collaborate with editors to determine issue content. Coordinate editorial publication and meetings; receive and respond to submissions. Edit pieces for clarity, length, and layout. Issue decision letters. Resolve issues as they arise.

Feb 2017 – Present

Founder & CEO, Hattiesburg Writing Institute LLC. Hattiesburg, MS.
Through English education, mentorship, and support, prepare students for post-graduate workforce and/or education; facilitate creative writing workshops. Students attain and strengthen critical reading, thinking, and grammar skills to become effective communicators and writers.

Jan 2017 – Mar 2017

Book Editor, Successful Edits.

Provided manuscript critique, developmental, line, and copyediting for Amish Writer Ashley Emma. Wrote editorial letters and editorial book review.

Oct 2012 – Dec 2012

English Tutor. Columbia, MS

Provided private English tutoring service to William Carey University student.

Sept 2012 – Mar 2013

Long-term English Substitute Teacher. Columbia School District. Columbia, MS

Taught primary, secondary, honor, and alternative students. Implemented lesson plans in reading, English, writing, and grammar. Proctored state examinations.

Jan 2010 – May 2012

Creative Nonfiction Teacher. Norfolk and Virginia Beach, VA

In a workshop or classroom setting, taught students how to incorporate literary (poetic, artistic) and fictional (plot, theme, point-of-view, character development, structure) techniques into nonfiction.

Sept 2004 – June 2004

Substitute Teacher, Newport News Public Schools. Newport News, VA

Taught primary students. Executed lesson plans. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

Sept 2003 – Jul 2004

Special Needs Childcare Provider. In-home. Fort Eustis, VA

Worked with Special Needs preschoolers with both learning and physical disabilities.

Aug 2000 – Dec 2002

English Tutor, Armstrong Atlantic State University. Savannah, GA

Provided tutorial services for AASU students needing help with writing.

Worked with ESL (English as a Second Language) and Regent Students.

Helped students improve their literary technique, style, and grammar

Publications and Presentations

May 2012

Publication and Presentation, *Unheard*. Memoir. Old Dominion University. Norfolk, VA

Mar 2011

Contest Finalist and Presentation, *Perfect Daughter*. Creative Nonfiction Short Story. Old Dominion University Women Studies Writing Contest, 600-800 Division. I was asked to present work in a public reading. Old Dominion University. Norfolk, VA.

June 2006

Honorable Mention, Publication, and Presentation, *Redemption*. Fiction Short Story. York County Literary Contest. Work published in York County Literary Journal. I was asked to present work in a public reading. Yorktown, VA

July 2009

Presentation, *Empty House* Chapbook. Poetry. The Muse Writers at The Boot. Norfolk, VA

1999

Publication, *My Time*. Poetry. Compilation, *Shelter in the Shade*. National Library of Poetry. Owing Mills, MD

2010

Presentation, *Tenacious Things* Chapbook. Poetry. The Muse Writers at The Boot. Norfolk, VA

Dec 2001

Performance. Play Directing. Armstrong Atlantic State University Stage. Savannah, GA
Cast and directed a one-act play.

Public Readings

2015

Annual Reading & Book Exchange. Java Werks. Hattiesburg, MS

2011

Tunnel Traffic Series at Borjo Coffeehouse. Norfolk, VA

2010

MFA Reading Series at Borjo Coffeehouse. Norfolk, VA

2010

Love Your Body Day. Old Dominion University. Norfolk, VA

2009

The Muse Writers at The Boot. Norfolk, VA

2009

Love Your Body Day at Old Dominion University. Norfolk, VA

2008

The Muse Writers at The Boot. Norfolk, VA

2008

Love Your Body Day. Old Dominion University. Norfolk, VA

2007

The Muse Writers at The Boot. Norfolk, VA

Research Experience

2016 – Present

Neuroscience Research. Neuroplasticity Study: How structured writing affects neuropathways in the brain.

2012

Research Paper. *When the Bough Breaks: Severing the Mother-Daughter Bond and Loss of Black Identity.* Extensive research on the cultural stratum of motherhood and mothering daughters within black culture and community. Fifteen pages. *Women Studies.*

2010

Research Paper. Extensive research on Elizabeth Gaskell's novel, *North and South*, and the philanthropic role of nineteenth century middle class women. 4000 words.

2009

Research Paper. Extensive research on the psychopathic nature of *American Psycho's*, Patrick Bateman juxtaposed with *Batman's*, Bruce Wayne. Twenty-five pages.

2008 – Present

Research. Extensive research on the signs, symptoms, causes, effects, and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Clinical effects of abuse: hypervigilance, sleep disturbances (insomnia), flashbacks (intrusive memories/PTSD), suicidal ideation, and psychosomatic symptoms such as migraines and digestive problems. Alcohol abuse. Abuse in relationships. Rape. Eating disorders. Victim's feelings of shame, depression, anxiety, embarrassment, guilt, humiliation, abandonment, and vulnerability.

Professional Certifications

Jan 2018

TEFL 120-Hour Foundation Certification, Foundation TEFL

Teaching English as a Foreign Language. Approaches to teaching young learners, adult learners, and online

Oct 2016

Instructor Certification Training Intensive, Loretto Spirituality Center

Littleton, CO. Oct 2016. Certified. Applied practice; Teaching experience; Marketing Plan Development; CJF credential.

Professional Development

Oct 2017

JTTS Practice Teaching/ICT Training at Mother Cabrini Retreat Center. Participant. Golden, CO

Sept 2017

NYC Expressive Therapies Summit at Executive Conference Center. *Expressive Writing Track & Journaling Track: Poetry Therapy and Journal Therapy: Discovering Possibilities at the Intersection of Story & Metaphor; Expressive Writing & Journaling for Enhanced Neuroplasticity: Four Keys to Well-Being; Expressive Writing as Activism; Along the Buddhist Path: Poetry, Journal & Action Methods for Mindfulness.* New York, NY

Aug 2017-Present

Certified Journal Facilitator Certification. Therapeutic Writing Institute and Center for Journal Therapy Denver, CO. Currently studying comprehensive program of core theory, professional development, psychological awareness, and supervised practice on how to facilitate therapeutic writing groups. Fall 2017 currently taking course PA502, Basic Facilitation Skills, and TW537, Write Way to Wellness. Spring 2017 completed course TW595, Your Brain on Ink: Study of neuroscience and neuroplasticity, implementing writing techniques, strategies, and experiences to teach students/clients how to create new neural pathways; PA501, Psychology of Differences: course on contemporary issues in mental health, about the prevailing causes, responses and treatment of mood disorders, traumatic stress responses, disorders of childhood/adolescence/the elderly. Dysfunctional family origin issues, sexuality identity; Winter 2017 completed course PD554, Marketing; Social Networking for Beginners. TW503, Group Process: Theory and Practice of Group Psychotherapy for developmental practitioners, licensed clinicians or credentialed coaches to facilitate groups for healing and change; Fall 2016 completed course TW512, The Pennebaker Method/Intro into Research: Incorporates guided writes based on the preeminent researcher in the field of therapeutic writing, Pennebaker's emotional release model, and basic concepts of social science research, including how to find and describe studies to include in presentations. PD551, Ethics.

Spring 2010

Worked one-on-one with Poet Kristan Naca. Learned poetic pointers to improve my literary style, technique, and voice. Norfolk, VA

Fall 2010

Worked one-on-one with Nonfiction Writer Blake Bailey. Learned elements of fiction to improve my literary style, technique, and voice in creative nonfiction. Norfolk, VA

2009 – 2010

Worked one-on-one with War Poet Brian Turner. Learned poetic pointers to improve my literary style, technique, and voice. Norfolk, VA

Professional Service

May 2018

English Teacher, *Little Pilot Life Club* at English First. Guangzhou, China

Feb 2018 - Apr 2018

Volunteer, Adult ESL Teacher. The English Language Center (ELC) at the University of Denver. Denver, CO

June 2017 – July 2017

Volunteer, *The Lion King*. Laurel Theater. Laurel, MS

Jan 2017

Editorial Book Review of *Ashley's Amish Adventures: An Outsider Living with the Amish* by Ashley Emma. Nonfiction.

Jan 2017

Editorial book review of *The Sink Before the Swim* by Dr. Roslyn Ashford. Memoir.

Oct 2016 – Oct 2018

JTTS, Journal Workshop Facilitator. *Journal to the Self*. Hattiesburg, MS

2016 - 2016

Nonfiction Editor for Online Journal, *Barely South Review*. Norfolk, VA

2012 - 2012

Guest Poetry Editor for Online Journal, *The Quotable*.

2011 - 2012

Interviewer for Lake Taylor Hospital Project. *Memoir*. Norfolk, VA

2011 - 2011

Poetry Workshop Leader at North Suffolk Library. Suffolk, VA

2011 - 2011

Mentor for Virginia Contemporary Arts Center's *Enrichment Project*. Virginia Beach, VA

2010 – 2010

Mentor for Virginia Contemporary Arts Teen Apprentice Program, *Where the Wild Things Are* Exhibition. Virginia Beach, VA

2010 – 2010

Mentor 3rd graders at Taylor Elementary School. Norfolk, VA

2010 – 2010

WinC at Virginia Contemporary Arts Center, *Family Festival*. Virginia Beach, VA

2010 – 2010

Mentor for **Park Place Child Life Center Arts Program**. Virginia Beach, VA

2009 – 2009

Poetry Judge for the **Suffolk Teen Poetry Contest**. Suffolk, VA

2009 – 2009

Facilitated WinC Writing Workshop for repeating 9th grade **English students** at **Granby High**. Norfolk, VA

2009 – 2009

Mentored girls through creative writing at **Park Place Child Life Center**. Norfolk, VA

2009 – 2009

Facilitated WinC Creative Writing Workshop at **Pretlow Library, Mighty Military Kids**. Norfolk, VA

2009 – 2009

Facilitated Creative Writing Workshops. Taught **Nonfiction** and **Poetry**. Virginia Beach, VA

2009 – 2009

Facilitated WinC Creative Writing Workshop at **Suffolk Public Library, Tell Your Story**. Suffolk, VA

Professional Memberships

2017 - Present

National Association for Poetry, NACP Member

2016 – 2018

Advanced Writing Workshop

2016 - Present

Hub City Writers Group (HCW)

2013 – 2015

Hattiesburg Tennis Club

2011 – Present

Golden Key International Honour Society

2009– 2012

Writers in Community (WinC)

2007 – 2009

The Muse Writers

Military Service

1995 – 1997

Electronic Computer and Switching Systems Apprentice, United States Air Force. Colorado Springs, CO
Built, fixed, and maintained computer hardware. Worked daily with computer software programs such as Microsoft Word and Works, PowerPoint, Excel, and Spreadsheet.

1995 – 1995

Dorm Chief, Boot Camp. United States Air Force. Biloxi, MS
Demonstrated Leadership Skills for new recruits.

References

- Excellent references available upon request