



THE LANGUAGE ARTS CONFERENCE

# ASILOMAR

OCTOBER 7-9, 2016

# 65

# TEACHER

AS INSPIRATIONAL MENTOR



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## TEACHER AS INSPIRATIONAL MENTOR

Our theme spotlights someone who inspires colleagues and students every day. The current educational landscape calls for 21st Century learning with more rigorous Common Core Standards. This year's conference offerings demonstrate how educators can meet these demands in ways that inspire students, colleagues and themselves. Each participant will meet over 3 days in one small-group session focused on a single topic in teaching reading and writing. This focused attention on one area of interest allows attendees to more deeply consider implementation of strategies discussed.

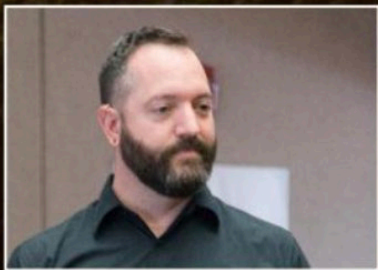
# SPEAKERS

**Jim Burke** teaches English at Burlingame High School, a public school where he has worked for over twenty years. He is the author of more than twenty books, including *The Common Core Companion: The Standards Decoded* published by Heinemann. Jim has received several awards, including the 2000 NCTE Exemplary English Leadership Award. He created the English Companion Ning, an online community for English teachers, which has been awarded the Best Social Network for Teachers several times. Jim's keynote will share examples from his own classroom to demonstrate how we as educators can inspire our students and new colleagues.



**JIM BURKE**





**DAN REYNOLDS**

**Dan Reynolds** is a classroom teacher, community volunteer, and union activist. He focuses his efforts on empowering student voices; promoting the teaching profession to youth; pushing for culturally responsive and social justice oriented school-, district-, and state-level policies; and developing curriculum, including an elective course in Human Rights Education. He has received numerous honors, including a CTA Human Rights Award, and the NCTE High School Teacher of Excellence Award. Dan is the chair of the Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center, chair of the Contra Costa Central Labor Council education committee, and chair of the Curriculum Study Commission.



### 1. Utilizing Text to Both Improve Writing Skills and Inspire Reluctant Writers

GRADES 2-8 COMMON CORE EMPHASIS TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED

USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION GENERAL ENRICHMENT

Utilizing mentor texts, participants will learn how to teach students two things 1) to demonstrate a writing skill found in the text that students can emulate in their own writing; 2) to inspire students to write something similar, while annexing their own words and finding their own writer's voice. A variety of strategies and resources will be shared.

### 2. Using Common Core to Discover the True Core: The Case for Classroom Depth

GRADES 9-COLLEGE COMMON CORE EMPHASIS TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED

USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION GENERAL ENRICHMENT

CCSS do not ask students to discover themselves. They do invite educators to open a door to the principles of deepened learning we explore in this session. Sustained reflection, pervasive questioning, and active cultivation of wisdom through particular classroom practices guide students not only to find what they think - but what they VALUE.

### 3. Putting the Common Core into Practice - Using Online and Published Resources to Supplement the Curriculum

GRADES 6-8 USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION

Finding supplemental materials that expand the curriculum you are teaching is time consuming. Come explore resources that can help you meet California's reading standards for informational text and fiction. Create units that have a novel or a period of history at their heart, but encourage students to experience the subject in greater depth.

### 4. Authentic and Alternative Assessment Using Technology

GRADES 4-COLLEGE COMMON CORE EMPHASIS TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED

USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION

We will explore ways to craft assessments using various technological platforms. The Google Drive suite and a plethora of free apps gives teachers powerful tools to deepen students' learning and create classrooms that are fun and creative. We will develop CCSS aligned assessments and lessons to enhance learning and differentiate instruction.

### 5. Close Reading and Writing of Nonfiction

GRADES 2-6 COMMON CORE EMPHASIS TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED

USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION ENGLISH LEARNERS

"Read. Read. Read, everything!" William Faulkner uttered this decades ago, and his words still ring true. If we want to write, we need to be readers, and vice versa. It is through both reading and writing "up close," however, that we begin to understand how to do both well. Come, to venture in.

### 6. Dialoguing Depth: Leveled Language Frames and K-5 CCSS Writing Standards

GRADES K-6 COMMON CORE EMPHASIS USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS

ENGLISH LEARNERS DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION

Do your students chatter endlessly until it is time to speak intelligently on content matter? It's time to end the silence and increase the learning! Through a series of structured classroom activities, you will learn how and when to use peer-to-peer conversation as a tool for increasing comprehension.

### 7. Radical Publishing and Empowered Voices

GRADES 6-COLLEGE COMMON CORE EMPHASIS TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED

USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION ENGLISH LEARNERS

Blogs, zines, pamphlets, anthologies, online journals, Youtube videos, Twitter flash fiction, more! Free yourself from the essay pile with the incorporation of authentic publishing opportunities while also empowering the students to authentically work as writers, editors, and publishers. In this session, you will learn how by doing this yourself!

### 8. Engaging Common Core Narrative Writing for Adolescents

GRADES 6-8 USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION

Participants will investigate Narrative Writing from a middle school student's perspective. Discussions focus on helping students to explore engaging topics for their narratives. We will examine similarities in the CCSS across grade levels, and participants will write mentor texts to be shared with the group.

### 9. The Collaborative Collage: An Inside-out Technique that Develops the Understanding of Purpose, Audience and Rhetorical Conventions

GRADES 9-12 COMMON CORE EMPHASIS TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED

USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS ENGLISH LEARNERS

The collaborative collage project offers students the chance to collaborate in order to develop a firmer understanding of purpose, audience, and rhetorical conventions (CCSS.ELA.W4&5). Developed, in part, at UNC Charlotte, the group technique puts students into a problem-solving situation paralleling the writing process. Participants engage fully.

### 10. What Motivates EL Students to Write Well: Goodness or Correctness?

GRADES K-8 COMMON CORE EMPHASIS INTERVENTION/COACHING/SPECIALISTS TEACHING

MATERIAL PROVIDED USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION ENGLISH LEARNERS

Do your beliefs about teaching writing keep you up at night? Have you shoved that bad student writing in the closet, dreading someone reading those EL pieces? This therapeutic session promises relief. Try out a new medication that replaces prescriptive EL instruction. Wake up Monday to clean that closet!

# SESSIONS

Expanded descriptions and pre-conference reading information for all sessions available at [curriculumstudy.org](http://curriculumstudy.org)



### 11. The Scientist's Field Notebook as a Pathway to English Language Arts

GRADES K-COLLEGE COMMON CORE EMPHASIS TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED

USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION GENERAL ENRICHMENT

Direct observation of nature can serve as the hub for cross-curricular connections between ELA and STEM. Using Asilomar as Nature Lab, participants will learn how to adapt the scientist's field notebook as a tool for observation (visual, written, and personal) to promote creativity, rigorous inquiry, and invention in students' writing practice.

### 12. In Search of a Better Literary Essay

GRADES 4-12 TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS

Writing meaningfully about stories is the heart of our teaching. Yet more often than we'd like to admit, the end result of our bridge between reading and writing - the literary essay - falls short of the powerful writing it could be. In this session we'll explore ways to improve the essay by writing one of our own.

### 13. The Inquiry Project & Common Core

GRADES 6-12 COMMON CORE EMPHASIS TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED

USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION ENGLISH LEARNERS

We will explore the Inquiry Project as it supports College and Career Readiness. This is a highly adaptable yearlong SSR curriculum that focuses on student-directed learning and Common Core-aligned assessments. We'll discuss the crucial components of inquiry-based learning and investigate ways to adapt this project into your own curriculum.

### 14. Writing and Teaching the Personal Essay

GRADES 6-12 TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS

DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION GENERAL ENRICHMENT

Invite students to write with passion through the personal essay. This brief and flexible form blends genres while honoring personal experience. We will share mentor texts, sample student essays, lessons, and strategies. Come and write your own personal essay, and leave ready to teach it to your students on Monday.

### 15. Using Video as a Tool/Teaching Video as a Text

GRADES 6-COLLEGE TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS

DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION GENERAL ENRICHMENT

This session will provide instruction and practice for creating desktop videos to supplement lessons, give direction to classes during your absence, and to archive instruction to support absent students. Participants will also study and discuss the video essay as a lesson component. Moderate technological proficiency is recommended.

### 16. LGBTQ Literature

GRADES 9-12 COMMON CORE EMPHASIS TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED

USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION

An invitation to LGBTQ teachers and allies, those with experience teaching LGBTQ literature, and those with both an open heart and desire to better serve our students. Find queer content in texts you already teach and fill your pockets with new techniques for teaching close reading and LGBTQ visibility.

### 17. The Refugee Awareness Project: A Cross-Curricular Project-Based Unit

GRADES 6-12 COMMON CORE EMPHASIS TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED USEFUL FOR NEW

TEACHERS DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION ENGLISH LEARNERS GENERAL ENRICHMENT

Humanize the plight of refugees around the globe. Bring awareness and compassion to a difficult topic while leaving personal politics at the door. With a focus on the Common Core and community involvement, this relevant and timely cross-curricular PBL unit will transform your students and your campus.

### 18. Interacting with Interests: Multigenre Papers as an Alternative to the Research Paper

GRADES 6-COLLEGE COMMON CORE EMPHASIS TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED

USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION ENGLISH LEARNERS

Tom Romano wrote that a multigenre paper is composed of many genres and subgenera, each piece self-contained, making a point of its own, yet connected to other pieces by theme and content. In this session, participants will read a sample multigenre paper, discuss mentor texts, and try writing in multiple genres themselves.

### 19. The UC Subject - A Prompt as a Tool for Analytical Writing

GRADES 6-12 TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS

If we are to truly prepare our students for college-level thinking and writing, then we need to break away from rigid essay structures that strive to avoid complexity and find ways instead to embrace it. In this session we will explore ways the UC Subject-A style prompt can work as an effective tool for college readiness.

### 20. The Grand Conversation

GENERAL ENRICHMENT

What books have you read for pleasure? What was the favorite book you read last year? Reading can be an activity of pure joy. Come and share the best titles from your experience with others, just for the fun of it. No lesson plans to write, no fitting into standards, no exams to prepare. Let's talk about books and spread the happiness.

### 21. Writing on the Road

GRADES K-COLLEGE TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS GENERAL ENRICHMENT

Teachers of writing rarely have time to practice the craft of writing themselves. Participants select a local destination and are given time to write. Group members respond to one another's drafts. Spend a weekend writing in the beautiful environment surrounding Asilomar and brushing up on how to get students to respond to one another's writing.

### 22. Opera for Beginners

GRADES K-12 TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS GENERAL ENRICHMENT

For many, opera has always seemed esoteric, difficult to understand, and even fearsome. We'll fix that. Let this section help you both to enjoy the emotional and intellectual rewards of operatic theater, and learn new things. You will hear familiar music, restore your soul, and come back with materials and ideas that can be useful in the classroom.

### 23. Carrying Sparks, Sharing a Flame: Using Poetry to Inspire Our Students and Ourselves

GRADES 6-COLLEGE GENERAL ENRICHMENT TEACHING MATERIAL PROVIDED

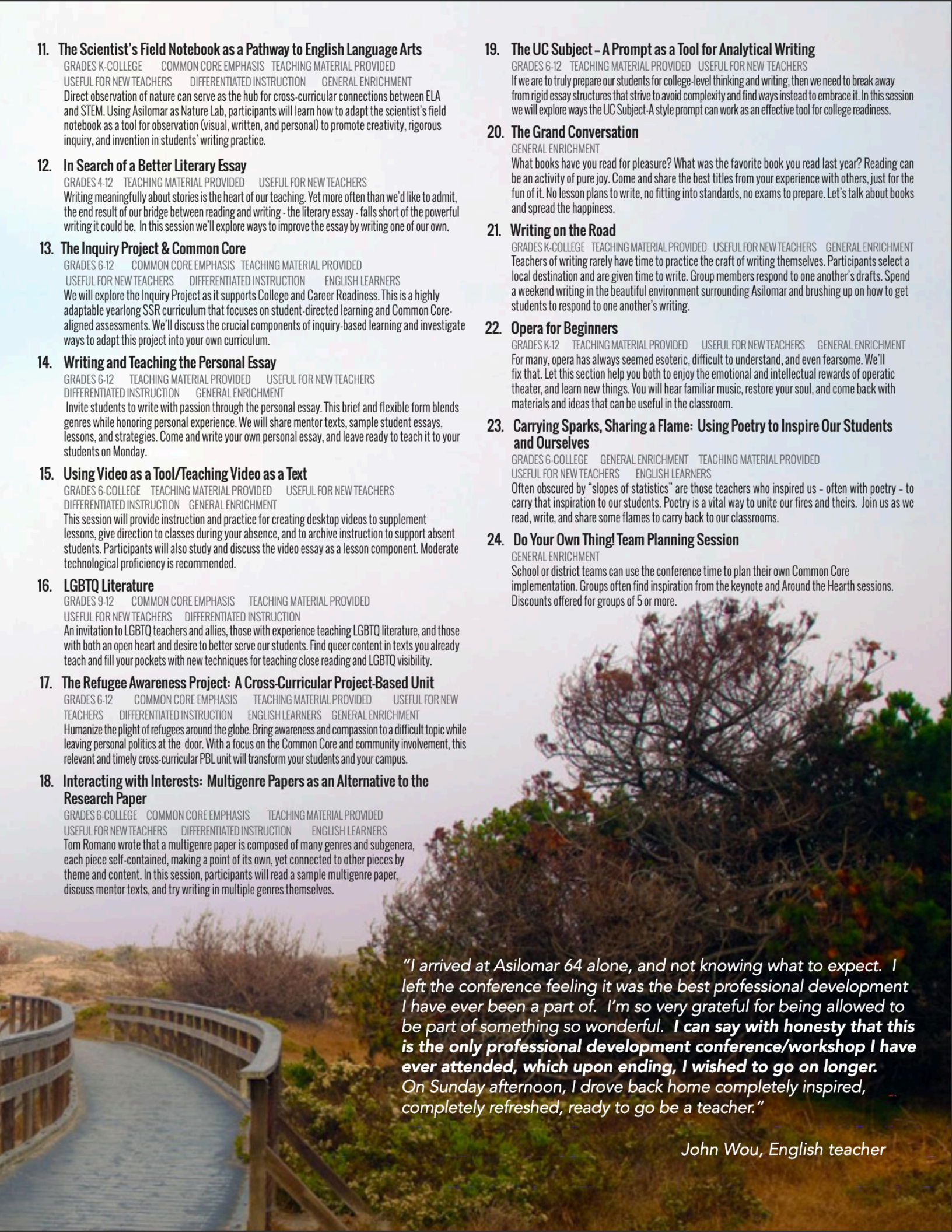
USEFUL FOR NEW TEACHERS ENGLISH LEARNERS

Often obscured by "slopes of statistics" are those teachers who inspired us - often with poetry - to carry that inspiration to our students. Poetry is a vital way to unite our fires and theirs. Join us as we read, write, and share some flames to carry back to our classrooms.

### 24. Do Your Own Thing! Team Planning Session

GENERAL ENRICHMENT

School or district teams can use the conference time to plan their own Common Core implementation. Groups often find inspiration from the keynote and Around the Hearth sessions. Discounts offered for groups of 5 or more.



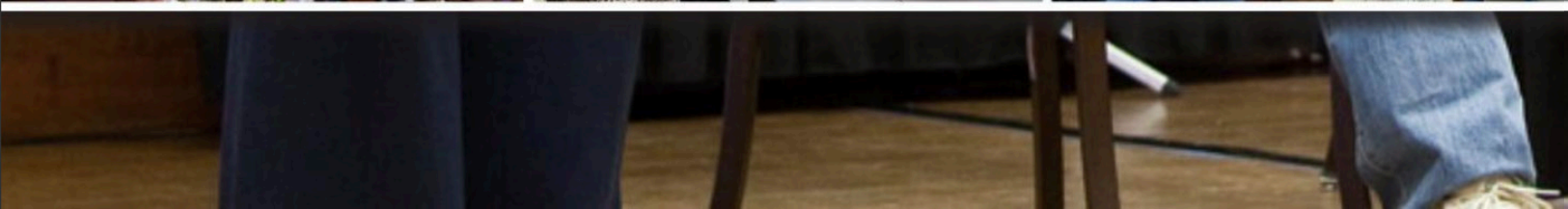
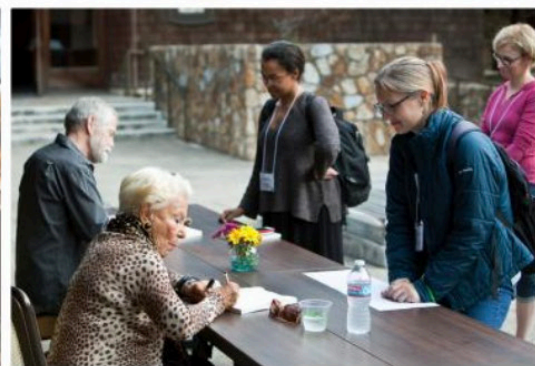
*"I arrived at Asilomar 64 alone, and not knowing what to expect. I left the conference feeling it was the best professional development I have ever been a part of. I'm so very grateful for being allowed to be part of something so wonderful. I can say with honesty that this is the only professional development conference/workshop I have ever attended, which upon ending, I wished to go on longer. On Sunday afternoon, I drove back home completely inspired, completely refreshed, ready to go be a teacher."*

John Wou, English teacher



*In my session I found much to inform my practice about giving space and opportunity in the curriculum for student voices.... The material was well-organized, clear and coherent, and directly applicable to my classroom.... **My own practice will be transformed by the rich and nuanced perspectives I experienced at Asilomar 64.**"*

*Amy Krochmal, Teacher*





# SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

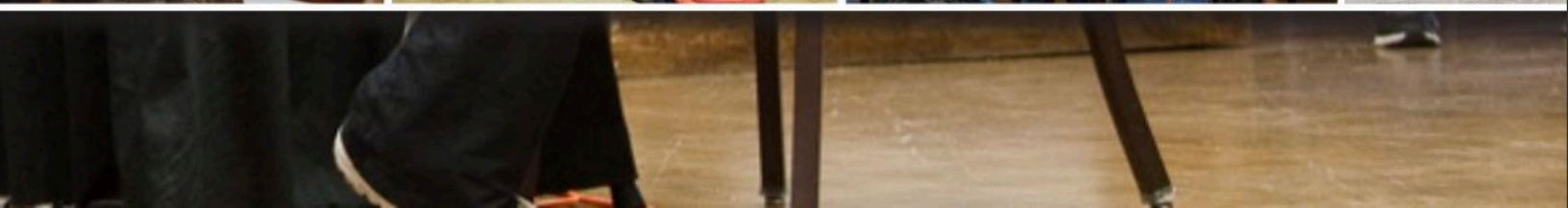
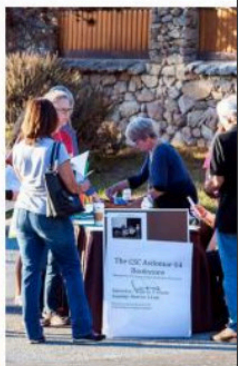
3:30-9:00 Registration  
4:30-5:30 Reception  
6:00-7:00 Dinner  
7:15-8:30 GENERAL SESSION A  
8:45-9:45 GROUP SESSION #1

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

7:30-9:00 Breakfast  
8:00-5:45 Bookstore Open  
9:00-10:30 GROUP SESSION #2  
10:30-10:45 Coffee Break  
10:45-12:00 GROUP SESSION #3  
12:00-1:00 Lunch  
1:15-2:30 GROUP SESSION #4  
2:45-4:00 GENERAL SESSION B  
4:00-5:45 Reception & Book Signing  
6:00-7:00 Dinner  
7:15-8:15 Around the Hearth Sessions I  
8:30-9:30 Around the Hearth Sessions II

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

7:30-9:00 Breakfast  
8:00-9:00 Bookstore Open  
9:15-10:45 GROUP SESSION #5  
10:45-11:00 Coffee Break  
11:00-12:00 GENERAL SESSION C





# ASILOMAR 65

TEACHER AS INSPIRATIONAL MENTOR



Miles Myers, a founding director of the Bay Area Writing Project and fixture at Asilomar for over fifty years, exemplifies this year's conference theme. Miles inspired teachers and students with his keen mind and compassionate heart while teaching English at Oakland High School in the 1960s and 1970s and at every Asilomar conference through 2015. We can still hear him laughing with joy.

THE LANGUAGE ARTS CONFERENCE

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FOR CONFERENCE UPDATES AND ADDITIONAL INFO, VISIT: [curriculumstudy.org](http://curriculumstudy.org)

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