
National Day on Writing

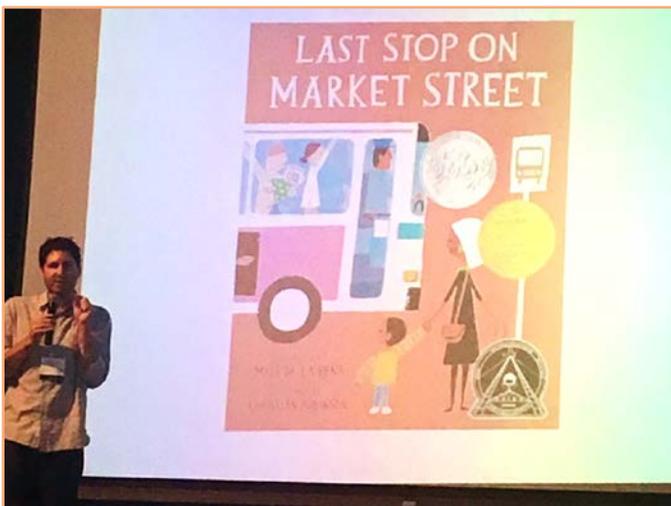
The National Day on Writing (October 20) was founded by the [National Council of Teachers of English](#) on the premise that writing is critical to literacy but [needs greater attention and celebration](#).

You see, people tend to think of writing in terms of pencil-and-paper assignments, but *no matter who you are*, writing is part of your life. It's part of how you work, how you learn, how you remember, and how you communicate. It gives voice to who you are and enables you to give voice to the things that matter to you.

For the past 9 years, we've seen thousands of people share their responses and engage in activities around the theme of **#WhyIWrite**. Their collective voices are raising the volume on this issue. (from the [why I write website](#)).

NCTE, CCIRA, CLAS Notes

Matt de la Pena delivered a very powerful and thoughtful presentation at the **CLAS conference**. We've often heard that one book can make a difference and turn a student into a reader. The book in Matt's life? Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*. "I love that book for the way it made me feel." And he built on that idea, saying that books, particularly for male readers, provide "a secret place to feel."



de la Pena offered a few nuggets around writing, too. He challenged some conventional wisdom that writers write about what they know. "The umbrella is what you

know," he said, but we "write about what we're curious about. When I write, I'm trying to figure things out. I don't always get answers, but it's the power of questioning."

CCIRA: The [Colorado Council International Reading Association](#) is looking forward to its 2017 Conference: "[Literacy Renaissance: Invention, Intention, and Close Study](#)," February 7-10. From their website: "The inspiration for the theme of the 2018 CCIRA Conference is Leonardo DaVinci. He was an artist and a scientist, an inventor and a passionately curious human being. Like DaVinci, educators are driven to learn, to explore, and to continuously work to master our craft. We believe there is joy in challenge. We understand that details matter. The how and the why are as important as the what. We knew we get better at teaching (and learning) by what we do on purpose."

Research & Resources

Here are some links to resources on writing and writing instruction.

- Resources from [#whylwrite](#)
- Penny Kittle: <http://pennykittle.net/>
- Kelly Gallagher: <http://www.kellygallagher.org/>
- Jeff Anderson: <http://www.writeguy.net/>
- "[A Formative Assessment System for Writing Improvement](#)" by Nancy Frey and Douglas Fisher.
- [The Paper Graders](#) – a Blog from our friends in Boulder
- [Digital Writing, Digital Teaching](#) – from Troy Hicks
- **Social media:** One of the best things in my life is following the likes of Kate di Camillo, Katie Wood Ray, Mary Karr, Penny Kittle, Kelly Gallagher, Carol Jago, Jessica Joy Cuthbertson, Sarah Zerwin ... on Facebook and Twitter. It's like mini-PD, insights, and inspiration delivered daily!

Speaking of Social Media: I invite you to share your writing experiences leading into, during, and beyond the **National Day on Writing**. Have some cool student work you are displaying? Have a great quote about writing or writing instruction? Want to exchange ideas with others?

Let's use #WhyIWrite and #ColoradoWrites on Twitter and Instagram to spread the word!

Contact Info

Please feel free to contact me at puzick_v@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6583. I would love to have feedback on the monthly e-update or hear suggestions for topics you would like to have addressed.