



**YOUNG WRITERS PROJECT**  
building a generation of better writers

# Writing the River Master's Practicum

For teachers in grades 4 - 12

**Summary:** **WRITING THE RIVER**, A professional development experience for teachers in the Lamoille River Watershed offered by Geoff Gevalt, *Young Writers Project* and Amy Demarest, *Our Curriculum Matters*. **What are the stories of the Lamoille River Watershed that we should preserve, create and share with our communities?** *Join us in an exciting place-based 21<sup>st</sup> century learning experience that involves your students in creating an authentic Web-based showcase for their work and to connect them with their communities!*

**Syllabus:** Full syllabus is available at [digitalteachers.net/writetheriver](http://digitalteachers.net/writetheriver). Teachers will have the opportunity to work in a yearlong collaboratively structured setting to support their work with students as they explore ways to write about the Lamoille River. They will experience and deepen their understanding of:

- The foundations of place-based education
- The idea of narrative as academic construct (ie exploring the dimensions of story)
- Practical and experiential learning with 21<sup>st</sup> century technology skills (and a toolkit of ways for students to create, revise and share information on the Web)
- Collaborating, learning and implementing new skills and approaches to interdisciplinary and single subject writing (history, ecology, human accomplishments and artistic expression)
- Creating a Lamoille River Watershed Website that will serve as a:
  - private collaborative working environment for teachers and students
  - multimedia showcase for completed student work
  - community resource for learning and protecting the Lamoille River

**Credits:** Three (3) St. Michael's College Graduate credits

## Meeting Times/Locations:

INTRODUCTION TO RIVER: *9am-4pm-Wednesday, August 18: Explore the Watershed*

TECHNOLOGY BASICS WORKSHOP: *10am-2pm-Saturday, Sept 25 (YWP, Winooski)*

COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP MEETINGS THROUGHOUT YEAR: Tuesdays 4-6:30 at Peoples Academy in Morrisville (Some classes may meet downriver): October 5, 12 ; November 9, 10; December 7; January 11, 25; February 8; March 8, 22 and final class in June TBA. (Class dates/times may be adjusted to participants and task.)

**Cost/Credits:** \$1,000 / three St. Michael's College Graduate Credits

**Register:** Register at [digitalteachers.net/writetheriver/registration](http://digitalteachers.net/writetheriver/registration) or contact Geoffrey Gevalt at (802) 324-9537 or [ggevalt@youngwritersproject.org](mailto:ggevalt@youngwritersproject.org). If email, please provide name, address, phone, email, school and grade and preferred method of payment. Confirmation and, if necessary, applications will be sent to you.

**Online setup:** Upon registration, participants will be given access to the course online space on [digitalteachers.net](http://digitalteachers.net) and will be expected to do one online exercise *before* the September meeting. Participants' school-use digital classroom Web sites will be set up in early September.

**More info:** Amy Demarest, *Our Curriculum Matters*, [abd@burlingtontelecom.net](mailto:abd@burlingtontelecom.net) or 802-363-1361; or Geoff Gevalt, *Young Writers Project*, [ggevalt@youngwritersproject.org](mailto:ggevalt@youngwritersproject.org) or 802-324-9537