Ideas for Starting an NeWP Writing Group

1. Recruit members from NeWP list serve and previous institutes or by invitation or word of mouth. The most important element of group membership is a sincere desire to write and share writing.
2. Begin with an organizational meeting to introduce group members and decide when and how often the group will meet.

 · Review the Writing Project small group process:

· Bring copies for everyone

· Writer reads aloud and gives author’s note

· Responders give feedback guided by author’s note,

· Writer is in charge of discussion of their piece.

1. Start each meeting with a quick “who’s got writing?” moment to help determine how time should be divided (set aside 20 min. -1/2 hour for each writer).
2. As groups get to know each other you may want to begin each meeting with a quick “life share” moment- a sort of “what’s going on in my life that influences my writing” period.
3. End with a “who plans to come next time?” moment so people have a sense of how many copies to bring for the next meeting.
4. Contact NeWP (Amy Tasich atasich@gmail.com OR Jenny Bruck jennybruck@gmail.com) with your group meeting information.

Advice/Tips:

If no one shows up with writing, the evening becomes a writing marathon (have some sort of structured writing time at the group and then share).

You should aim for 8-9 people in a group.

Please prepare for your group to go through a norming process.

In your group, writing type does not matter (in fact, it’s better if you have a variety!).

As a group, you need to decide and let others know if you will be sharing digitally or on paper.

When in a group, you are committing to show up most of the time and with writing about half of the time.