

**Jane Miller**  
302 Fisk Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15202  
412-849-5574  
**janemiller516@gmail.com**

## **Teacher**

- 2013 – Present    The Pennsylvania State University, Greater Allegheny campus--Adjunct Instructor for Communications 160, Spring 2013.
- 2013 – Present    University of Pittsburgh's Western Pennsylvania Writing Project's Leadership Team-Literacy evaluator for the Pennsylvania Humanities Teen Reading Lounge Program; Workshop presenter for the Pennsylvania Middle School Educator's Association.
- 1994 – Present    Act 48 Class Instructor for Allegheny Intermediate Unit Three and the University of Pittsburgh Western Pennsylvania Writing Project. Act 48 classes for teachers include: *Words + Pictures*, *Newspaper in a Day*, and *It's Writing (About) Cats & Dogs*.
- 1986 – 1994       High School and Middle School Yearbook/Newspaper Advisor:  
Quaker Valley Middle and Senior High School, 1991 – 1994\*  
Northgate Junior and Senior High School, 1986 – 1989\*  
*\*Yearbooks awarded national honors from National Scholastic Press Association and Columbia Scholastic Press. Served as judge for N.S.P.A. 1994 – '99.*
- 1978 - 1981       High School English Teacher:  
Woodland Hills School District, Pittsburgh, PA, 1980 – 81;  
Madison High School, Mansfield, Ohio, 1978-79

## **Journalist and Curriculum Writer**

- 1991 – Present    Newspaper Correspondent:  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 2014 - present  
Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, 2010 – 2014  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 1991 – 2003 (Food & Flavor Staff, 1998 – 2003)
- Magazine Free-lance writer:  
*Quilter's World*, 2007 – present; *Pittsburgh Professional*, 2007 – 2009, Gardening columnist for *Western PA Gardener's Gazette*, 2007 – 2010, *Angels on Earth, Birds & Blooms*. Inspirational essays in four *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books.
- Curriculum Writer:  
Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, 1990 – 2001.  
Wrote teacher and parent study guides for exhibit and education outreach programs including national toured exhibit, "Mister Rogers: A Hands-On Exhibition."

## **Education**

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA  
*Western Pennsylvania Writing Project Summer Institute for Teachers, 2009*

*Continued . . .*

Ohio University, Athens, Ohio  
Scholastic journalism, 1978- 1979

Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio;  
B.S. Secondary Education/Speech/Theater, 1978

**Volunteer**

The Ruff Writers

Creator of The Ruff Writers community literacy project for schools, homes, libraries and senior residences to be piloted in 2014.

National Elementary Schools Press Association, University of Alabama School of Journalism, Advisory Board, 1994 - present

North Pittsburgh Quilters Guild, 1995 – present

Community volunteer: Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon, Northgate High School Musical Theater, Northgate Band Boosters.

**Personal**

Married to Rick Miller, psychologist, 34 years; three children

Interests: quilting, gardening, therapy dogs, photography

References available upon request.



Jane Miller

I would like to teach at the Young Writers Institute because I have a passion for finding ways to encourage authentic writing with students of all ages. I have been a high school English and journalism teacher as well as a professional writer.

Based on my experience of interviewing young writers for an article with the Pittsburgh Tribune Review, I have high expectations and respect for their abilities. I view the typical young writer as creative and often with a definite vision for the type of writing they prefer, usually within fictional or poetic genres.

As both a professional journalist and adviser to high school newspaper and yearbook programs, I would like to expand their visions by sharing ways to think and write creatively as a nonfiction writer. I would like to teach skills that have practical applications right now within their schools and communities.

I have worked collaboratively as a teacher since my early years of teaching going back to the 1980's. As a middle school and high school yearbook advisor for seven years, I had a great deal of experience in collaborative teaching. Often my students interacted with teachers on news beats in order to anticipate future publication coverage. Currently, I co-teach the AIU3 Act 48 class "Words + Pictures," with Black Hawk middle school teacher Leslie Kunkel. We encourage collaboration among art and classroom teachers, as well.

As a teacher—as well as an ongoing student, myself—of writing, I value the time that is spent one-on-one with other writers who become readers and listeners to each others' work. Writing, I believe, is more "caught," than taught, and encouragement is a great part of the process. As a teacher in the Young Writer's Institute, I hope that I could share my passion for helping students discover the amazing stories that surround each one of them, and encourage them to use those stories in a variety of genres.

Lesson #1 Idea: The Art and Craft of Writing a "Bio"

All of our lives we will be crafting brief stories about who we are for print and internet media. A session on writing a brief biography could be adapted for all ages of young writers, with varying parameters. The art of writing a good bio is the same as good writing, with lots of verbs and a bit of the unexpected to make it interesting. The craft is the construction that fits the publication format and conveys the essence of "who" this person is. Part of the craft is the organization, and developing a form that can be used for a school's publications where bios are used, ranging from yearbook to musical theater programs. A variation on this class could be to craft well-written "tweets."

Lesson #2 Idea: Create a children's picture book/storytelling

This could be a session that, again, could be geared towards the interest and grade levels of the students. In the "Words + Pictures" class I co-teach for AIU3, teachers are taught a "Keepsake" picture book graphic organizer technique that helps them brainstorm about stories in their lives that is expanded to a 1,000 word story with four illustrations. This class would share the elements of fiction writing, but geared towards the idea that in the final product, the illustrations and words share the story telling. This could be an on-going project that students finish independently, and share in a story telling session at the Oakland Library at a later date. A variation on this class could be in the art of storytelling and oral interpretation, too.

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302 Fisk Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15202

April 11, 2011

Western PA Writing Project  
University of Pittsburgh  
School of Education  
5318 WWPH  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Dear WPWP Young Writers Committee,

Please consider my application to teach at this summer's Young Writers Institute. I am a fellow of the 2009 class and have been active in the community as both a writer and a teacher.

I am experienced in teaching most aspects of journalistic writing, including memoir. I can also teach basic graphic design concepts and how design can impact a message. I will be co-teaching the class "Words + Pictures" for the Allegheny Intermediate Unit this summer. It is a class to help classroom teachers to teach collaboratively with district art teachers, as students develop art as well as turn a true story into a children's picture book with the incorporation of fiction writing techniques.

I am interested in teaching either at the Oakland campus or at the new Pine Richland campus. If you have any questions, you can reach me at 412-849-5574. I look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,

Jane Miller

