

# **Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum**

## **– A Brief Overview –**

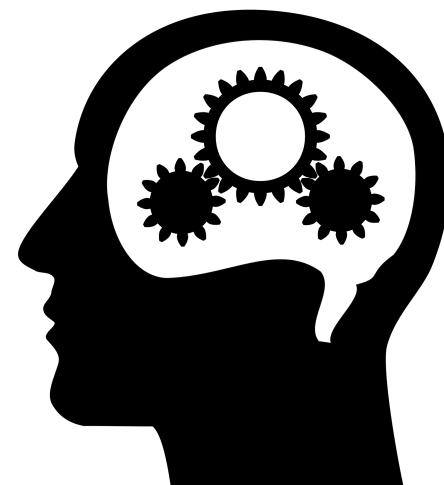
# ERWC

## Expository Readng and Writing Curriculum

THE **GOAL** OF ERWC IS TO  
PROMOTE POSTSECONDARY  
**SUCCESS** FOR ALL STUDENTS BY  
PREPARING THEM FOR THE  
**LITERACY AND COMMUNICATION**  
**DEMANDS** THEY ARE LIKELY TO  
ENCOUNTER IN COLLEGE  
AND CAREER.

## What is **ERWC**?

The Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum (ERWC) is a full-year course at the 11th and 12th grades employing **an inquiry-based, rhetorical approach** with an **integrated** reading, writing, and oral communication curriculum designed to increase the academic preparation of diverse students with varied learning needs.



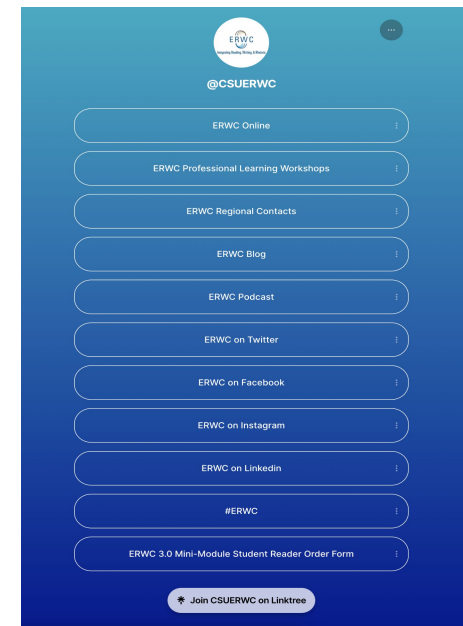
## A Few Facts about ERWC

- Began in **2004** as joint effort of high school teachers and CSU faculty to address gaps in student learning that hindered the successful transition from high school to college for many students.
- The subsequent 12th grade course that was developed focused on rhetorical analysis and critical reading and writing.
- In **2006**, ERWC was approved by the University of California and the CSU as a year-long college-preparatory English satisfying the “b” English requirement in the “a-g” sequence.

## A Few Facts about ERWC

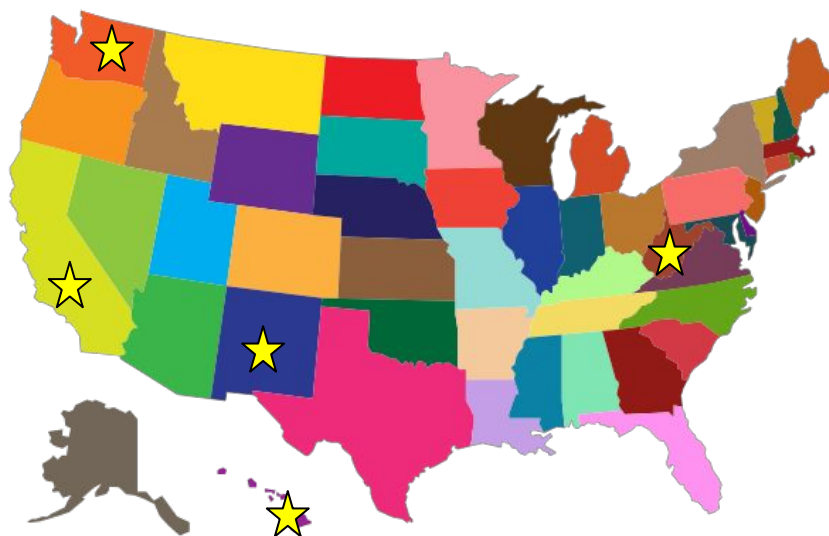
- To date, more than **16,000** educators across California have participated in ERWC professional learning seminars. More than **1,000** CA high schools have adopted the ERWC as a full-year, 12th grade course.
- Expansion has continued into the 9th, 10th, and 11th grades and into other states.

We invite you to **connect** through  
social media with the ERWC  
today!

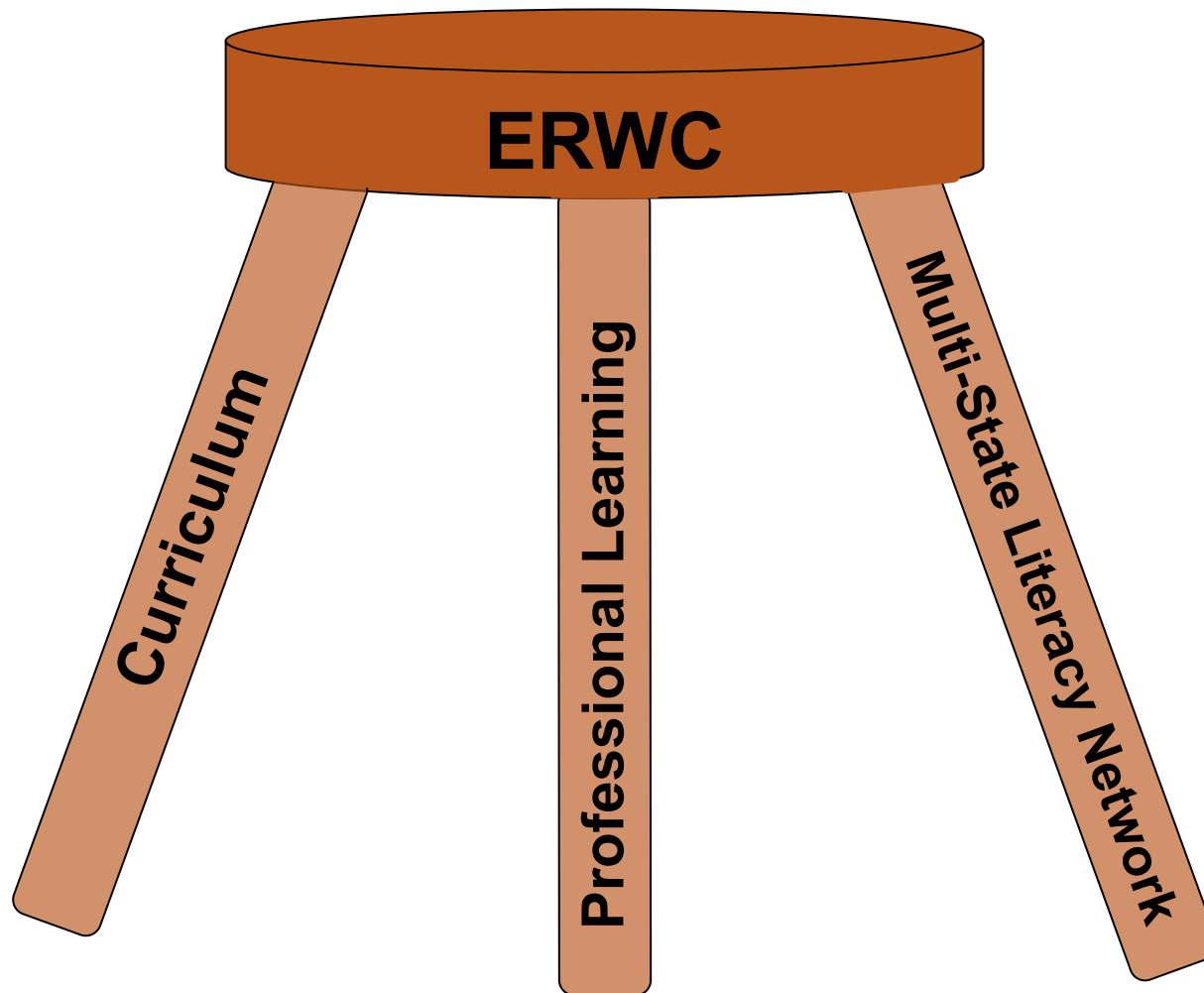


## ERWC Is **Teacher Influenced**

Developed **by** teachers **for** teachers in a continuing collaboration between high school and university faculty, the ERWC modules are being used by teachers in **five** states.



**ERWC** is like a three-legged stool...



## ERWC Modules (Units) for **Grades 6-8**

ERWC has developed modules for grades 6-8 that include designated language support (ELD) and will be available in the 2025-26 school year for teachers to use.

### These modules include...

#### 6th Grade:

- ★ *Booked*
- ★ *Facts of Life*
- ★ *Keeping California Wild*
- ★ *The Metaverse and Me*

#### 7th Grade:

- ★ *My Language Journey*
- ★ *Sharing Stories, Creating Community*
- ★ *They Called Us Enemy*
- ★ *Water Protectors*
- ★ *When You Trap a Tiger*

#### 8th Grade:

- ★ *Bees: Nature vs. Technology*
- ★ *Living Beyond Borders*
- ★ *Our Plastic Addiction*
- ★ *Songs of Praise*
- ★ *Underground Abductor*



## ERWC Modules (Units) for **Grades 9-10**

ERWC also offers teachers four modules at grade 9 and five modules at grade 10 that can be integrated into their existing curriculum. All of the 9th and 10th grade modules include designated language support (ELD).

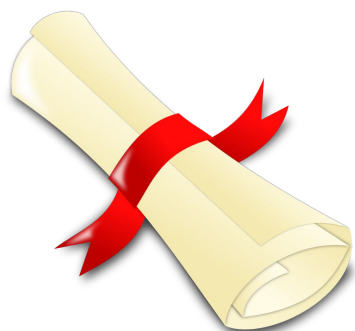
### These modules include...

- ★ Remembering Injustice (9)
- ★ Good Food/Bad Food (9)
- ★ Conscious Hip Hop: Empowerment, Identity, and Social Change (9)
- ★ *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (9)
- ★ Age of Responsibility (10)
- ★ Free Speech (10)
- ★ *Things Fall Apart* (10)
- ★ Citizen Youth (10)
- ★ We Should All Be Feminists (10)

## ERWC Leads to **Success**

### *Preparation for College and/or Career*

The successful completion of the course at grades 11 and/or 12 indicates that students have been introduced to and practiced the **critical thinking, reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills** necessary for success in college and career.



# ERWC Helps Students Develop Healthy Habits of Mind



ERWC is designed to instill the strategies, abilities, and **habits of mind of fluent academic readers and writers** through rhetorical analysis of compelling issues and interesting texts that allow students to **transfer those literacy skills** to new situations.



# ERWC Offers a **Practical Curriculum**

## *Transfer of Learning and Universal Design for Learning*

The ERWC emphasizes **transfer of learning**; a **variety** of literary and informational **texts** and **writing** and **speaking tasks**; the inclusion of integrated and designated **English language development**; and features from **Universal Design for Learning**, including student goal setting and formative assessment.



## What does an **ERWC course** look like?

Teachers construct a year-long course by selecting from among pairings of concept **mini-modules** and full-length issue, book, drama, and poetry **modules** representing diverse authors and perspectives and **aligned with CA English Language Arts/Literacy and English Language Development standards.**

You build your curriculum with choice!  
**You** select the modules and the activities with intentionality based on **your students'** needs and interests.

2

Portfolio  
Modules

3

Mini-  
Modules

5-6

Full-Length  
Modules

# How does ERWC work as a year-long course (grade 12)?

- Mini-modules (14) introduce rhetorical skills
- Full-length modules (26 in 12th grade)
  - 2 Portfolio modules bookend the year (goal-setting and metacognitive reflection)
  - 6 Book modules (including *Into the Wild*, *Brave New World*, 1984)
  - 2 Drama modules (*Hamlet* and *Othello*)
  - 15 Issue modules covering everything from climate change and environmental issues to community activism to the value of life to space travel and the colonization of Mars

MINI - Introducing the Rhetorical Situation

MINI - Introducing Ethos, Pathos, and Logos

MINI - Introducing Genre as Rhetoric

MINI - Introducing Transfer of Learning

MINI - Introducing Inquiry Questions

MINI - Introducing Kairos

MINI - Introducing Exigence

MINI - Introducing Stasis Theory: Finding Common Ground

MINI - Analyzing the Rhetorical Situation: The Case of Susan

MINI - Analyzing Audience: Pathos as Inquiry

MINI - Using the Toulmin Model to Analyze Arguments

MINI - The Toulmin Model as Inquiry into Audience

MINI - The Classical Pattern of Persuasion

MINI - Becoming Assessment Savvy

# How does ERWC work as a year-long course (grade 11)?

- Mini-modules (14) introduce rhetorical skills
- Full-length modules (23 in 11th grade)
  - 2 Portfolio modules bookend the year (goal-setting and metacognitive reflection)
  - 5 Book modules
  - 2 Drama modules (*The Crucible*, *Zoot Suit*)
  - 2 Foundational Document Modules
  - 13 Issue modules covering a range of topics of interest to teenagers today.

MINI - Introducing the Rhetorical Situation

MINI - Introducing Ethos, Pathos, and Logos

MINI - Introducing Genre as Rhetoric

MINI - Introducing Transfer of Learning

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## ERWC Is NOT...

- A remedial, packet-based, or “watered down” curriculum
- Only a college-prep class

*ERWC introduces students to and gives them practice applying the analytical and critical thinking skills we want all community members to have and be able to apply.*

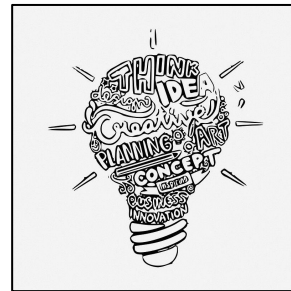
- A sacrifice of “teaching English” (there’s still literature and drama, but also enhanced opportunities to teach literacy skills that will transfer to other situations and disciplines.)
- A prescriptive “script” to teach from
- A lockstep approach to teaching





## ERWC Offers **Flexibility** and **Respect**

- The curriculum allows teachers the **flexibility** to make pedagogical decisions based on formative assessments and their own professional expertise and experience.
- **Respect** for the professional expertise of teachers and the intelligence of students is central to the philosophy of ERWC.



## ERWC Principles

1. The **integration** of interactive reading and writing processes;
2. A rhetorical approach that fosters critical thinking and engagement through **a relentless focus on the text**;
3. Materials and themes that **engage student interest**;
4. Classroom activities designed to model and foster **successful practices of fluent readers and writers**;
5. Research-based methodologies with a consistent relationship between **theory and practice**;
6. **Built-in flexibility** to allow teachers to respond to varied students' needs and instructional contexts; and
7. **Alignment** with California's Common Core State **Standards** for English Language Arts and Literacy.

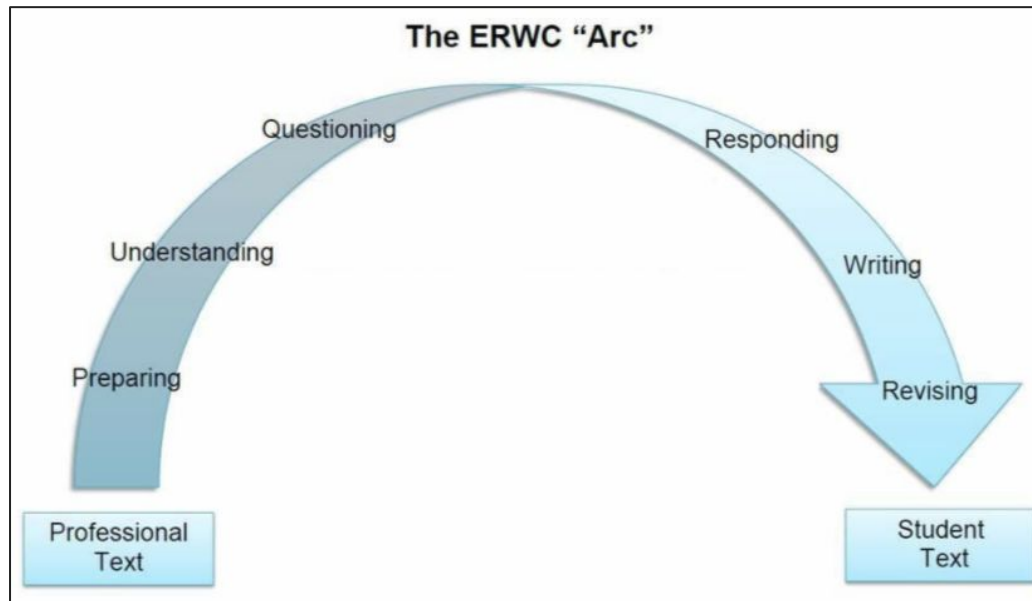
# ERWC Assignment Template

Each module employs the same template to provide **scaffolding and practice in integrated processes of reading, writing, and oral communication**, moving students from engaging with a professional text to creating their own text in response to the topic.

CSU The California State University		ERWC
ERWC 3.0 Assignment Template Overview		
Teacher Version: Setting Teaching Goals for this Module Setting Learning Goals for the Module		
Reading Rhetorically	Preparing to Read	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Getting Ready to Read</li> <li>Exploring Key Concepts</li> <li>Surveying the Text</li> <li>Making Predictions and Asking Questions</li> <li>Understanding Key Vocabulary</li> <li>Creating Personal Learning Goals</li> </ul>
	Reading Purposefully	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading for Understanding</li> <li>Annotating and Questioning the Text</li> <li>Negotiating Meaning</li> <li>Examining the Structure of the Text</li> <li>Considering the Rhetorical Situation</li> <li>Analyzing Rhetorical Grammar</li> <li>Analyzing Stylistic Choices</li> </ul>
	Questioning the Text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summarizing and Responding</li> <li>Thinking Critically</li> <li>Synthesizing Multiple Perspectives</li> <li>Reflecting on Your Reading Process</li> </ul>
Preparing to Respond	Discovering What You Think	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Considering Your Task and Your Rhetorical Situation</li> <li>Gathering Relevant Ideas and Materials</li> <li>Developing a Position</li> </ul>
Writing Rhetorically	Composing a Draft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making Choices about Learning Goals</li> <li>Making Choices as You Write</li> <li>Negotiating Voices</li> </ul>
	Revising Rhetorically	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyzing Your Draft Rhetorically</li> <li>Gathering and Responding to Feedback</li> </ul>
	Editing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Editing Your Draft</li> <li>Preparing Your Draft for Publication</li> <li>Reflecting on Your Writing Process</li> </ul>
Reflecting on Your Learning Goals Teacher Version: Reflecting on Your Teaching Process		

# The ERWC “Arc”

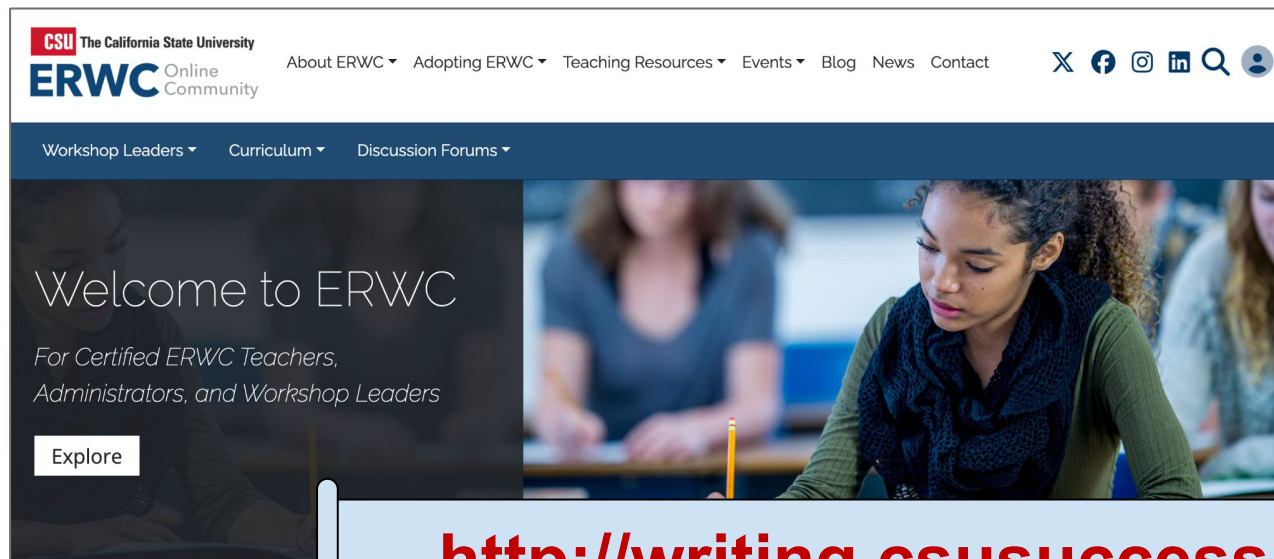
Takes Students from “Text to Text”



The image illustrates the concepts of “Text to Text” and the progression of tasks built in to every ERWC module. The arc is the DNA of ERWC.

## ERWC Online Community

Through an online community of professional educators, teachers download the curriculum and other materials, post questions, and share resources.



<http://writing.csusuccess.org/>

# ERWC Professional Learning

Opportunities for **professional learning** for ERWC 3.0 include:

- Four-day **introductory** professional learning certification (**24 hours total**) for teachers new to ERWC (**offered both online and in-person**).
- Two-day intensive sessions (12 hours total) for currently certified ERWC teachers interested in concentrating on specific elements of ERWC.

*Sign up for PL on the  
**online community.***

## Upcoming Events

**The Unlimited Teacher**

THURSDAY  
September 19, 2024

TIME  
4:30-5:30PM

ZOOM

The Unlimited Teacher  
presented by Marissa  
Thompson

September's webinar series presenter, Marissa Thompson, comes to you with ideas for removing the "limits" placed on educators and offers strategies for expanding and developing our approach to planning for academic success.  
September 19, 2024  
4:30PM - 5:30PM (PST) | Zoom

Register  
Here

ERWC 3.0  
Introductory  
Workshop - Shasta  
COE

Wednesday, September 25, 2024  
Redding, CA

Registration closes  
September 13, 2024

Register

ERWC 3.0  
Introductory  
Workshop - Stanislaus

Monday, September 23, 2024  
CSU Stanislaus

Registration closes  
September 16, 2024

Register

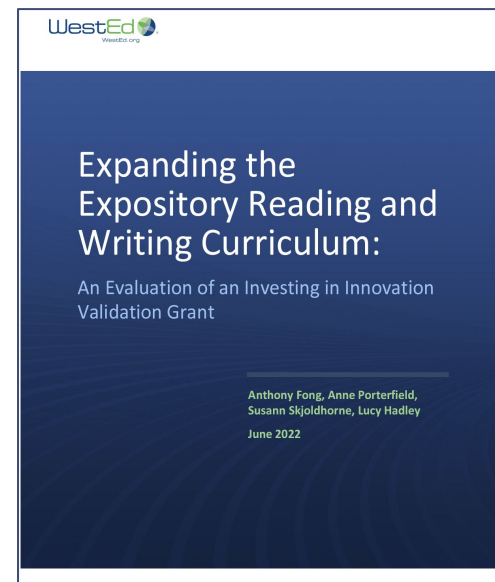
[More Workshops](#)

[More Webinars](#)

## How **Effective** is the ERWC?

ERWC has been recognized by the **US Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse (WWC)** as effective in meeting its **highest evidence-based standards** in its review of the 2022 report, “Expanding the Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum: An Evaluation of an Investing in Innovation Validation Grant.”

You may access the report [here](#).





# The **Future** of ERWC

## ERWC continues to **grow!**

If you'd like to be part of the piloting program for new 9th/10th grade modules, please [click here](#) to learn more!

### EXPOSITORY READING AND WRITING CURRICULUM GRANT OPPORTUNITY

#### OVERVIEW

WestEd, in collaboration with the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools and the California State University, is recruiting high schools in California to participate in an Education Innovation and Research (EIR) grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Through the grant, high schools will implement the Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum (ERWC) in grades 9 and 10, and WestEd will evaluate the impact on student achievement.

#### ABOUT ERWC

- Emphasizes the in-depth study of analytical and argumentative reading and writing
- Proven to have positive impacts on students' English language arts (ELA) achievement



#### ERWC IN GRADES 9 AND 10 WILL INCLUDE...

- Full, yearlong thematic courses with two options for pathways per grade
- Diverse authors and types of texts
- A focus on oral communication, collaborative discussion, and civic discourse
- Integrated and Designated English Language Development (ELD)
- Content aligned with all of the Common Core State Standards for ELA

#### FREE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

- Dedicated support for site-based communities of practice
- Summer workshops
- One-on-one coaching

The professional learning will advance teachers' understanding of the ERWC, and coaches will be available throughout the school year to support teachers as they implement the curriculum.



Are your students prepared for life after high school?

## Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum

Adopt the Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum (ERWC), a highly engaging 11th and 12th grade A-G approved English course that supports college and career readiness.

*ERWC puts student engagement first and empowers teachers to make choices about their students. While it prepares students for college, career, and life, ERWC is also an avenue for becoming the best teacher that you can be.*

— ERWC Teacher

For additional information email [erwc@calstate.edu](mailto:erwc@calstate.edu). To adopt the ERWC or register for a workshop, go to: [writing.csusuccess.org](http://writing.csusuccess.org)



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### What makes the ERWC stand out?

- The ERWC provides curriculum, a community, and a multi-state literacy network for educators.
- An **inquiry-based approach** helps students become flexible, adaptive, and reflective thinkers and communicators.
- Integrated Universal Design for Learning (UDL) creates **accessibility** for students with disabilities, general education students, and English learners.
- The ERWC is **assets-based**, with culturally and linguistically sustaining pedagogy and emphasis on academic discourse and collaborative meaning making.
- Modules (units) with integrated and designated lessons to support English Language Development are included.
- **High-interest** topics such as immigration, mental health, and social media usage are explored through a wide range of texts including articles, Web sites, full-length books, video texts, etc.
- Certified ERWC professionals have access to free curriculum (available to download and print).
- Educators receive free or low-cost **professional learning opportunities**.

To learn more about **ERWC**, please visit the ERWC Web site:  
<http://writing.csusuccess.org/>

Or, email [erwc@calstate.edu](mailto:erwc@calstate.edu)

Or, click **the flyer** to access more information about ERWC.

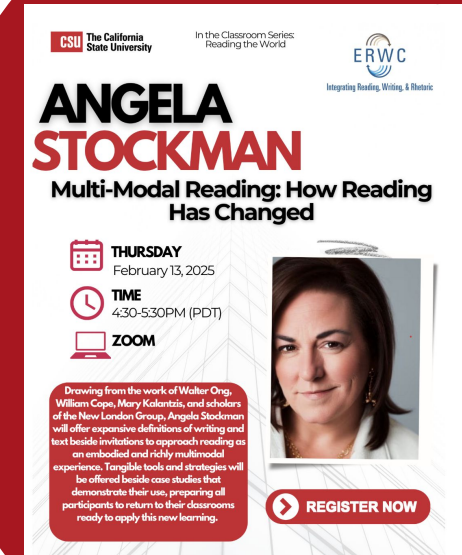


# ERWC Webinar Series

*Join us for our next free webinar!*

Free monthly webinars by an  
amazing group of nationally  
known presenters

Thursdays at 4:30 pm (PST)



SEE OUR WEBINAR SCHEDULE OR CATCH UP ON OUR  
WEBINARS BY VISITING  
[WRITING.CSUSUCCESS.ORG/WEBINARS](https://writing.csusuccess.org/webinars)

Join us for the

# 2025 ERWC LITERACY CONFERENCE

June 23, 2025

## Keynote Speaker: Tae Keller

#1 New York Times bestselling author of  
*When You Trap a Tiger*, *Jennifer Chan  
is Not Alone*, and *The Science of  
Breakable Things*

Long Beach  
June 23, 2025

**FREE  
REGISTRATION!**

Long Beach Marriott  
4700 Airport Plaza Dr.  
Long Beach, CA 90815

June 23, 2025  
**ERWC Literacy  
CONFERENCE**

Join California educational leaders for an inspiring showcase of best practices in rhetorical reading and writing instruction, language learning, curriculum development, and culturally and linguistically sustaining pedagogies. [Register here](#) to attend the 2025 ERWC Literacy Conference. Conference registration is FREE!

**REGISTER HERE!**

QR code

**Scan the QR code!**

# ERWC Workshops

**ERWC** now offers:

- ★ **Introductory Workshops**  
(24 hours; for those new to ERWC)
- ★ **Intensive Workshops**  
(12 hours; for certified ERWC teachers interested in taking a deeper dive into various aspects of the ERWC curriculum)

## ERWC 2 Day Intensive Options

- ERWC and Universal Design for Learning
- Teaching Writing Well, with a Focus on Feedback and Revision
- Planning a Year-Long ERWC Course
- Scaffolding Writing Instruction
- Preparing to Teach: It's All About the Text!
- Building Language and Literacy in the ERWC-ELD Classrooms
- Teaching Literature Rhetorically
- Teaching for Transfer



Check out all upcoming workshops by visiting

<https://writing.csusuccess.org/upcoming-workshops>

**Follow #ERWC  
on social media.**



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CSU Expository  
Reading and Writing  
Curriculum



**Visit our website for more information.**

**<https://writing.csusuccess.org>**