2015 Annual Conference of the American Reading Forum
Sundial Beach and Tennis Resort, Sanibel Island, FL

Language and Literacy: Meeting the Challenges of All Learners

In December 2015 conference, the American Reading Forum will be entering its 36th year as a professional organization that facilitates the dissemination of ideas and research and places a high priority on providing its members opportunities for critical discussions of ideas, issues, research, emerging research interests, and paradigms.

The conference theme addresses the challenges of meeting the literacy needs of all learners especially in light of the Common Core Standards. As we explore the language and literacy needs of all learners we hope to examine the challenge of developing academic language, language proficiency, fluency and acuity. We hope to uncover what is "essential vocabulary" and how we develop it for all students, birth through 20. Furthermore, we look to examine how teachers and teacher educators are engaging all learners in literacy endeavors across the disciplines.

The 2015 conference theme calls for participants to submit proposals, panels, and/or problems court sessions relating to reading teacher preparation, reading teacher practices, or other reading/literacy teacher-centered/teacher-focused topics. We extend this invitation to all members of the Reading/Literacy community to participate in the year's 2015 American Reading Forum Conference.

The keynotes for this year include:
    Bob Ackland, State University of New York Plattsburg
    Donna Scanlon, University at Albany
    Kathleen Hinchmann, Syracuse University
    Peter Johnston, University at Albany

Important Dates

August 15, 2015	Proposals for Papers, Panels, and Problems Courts must be submitted
September 1, 2015	Feedback on proposals will be sent out
October 1, 2015	Graduate student proposals must be submitted
October 15, 2015	Early bird registration ends
November 1, 2015	Feedback on graduate student proposals will be sent out
November 11, 2015	Online registration ends
November 10, 2015	Attendees make reservations at the Sundial
December 9–12, 2015	American Reading Forum Conference Sanibel Island Florida Sundial Resort and Spa

General Information

Proposals for Papers, Panels, Problems Courts, and Advancing Literacy sessions will be considered for inclusion in the 2015 American Reading Forum Annual Conference Program if they are received by August 15, 2015.

All presenters are expected to register and attend the conference to present and discuss the paper with the audience. The membership of the Forum has consistently requested that people submit proposals only if they fully believe the related obligations can be met. Generally, a person will appear only once as a presenter on the program but could also appear as a reactor for one of the various sessions. It is our hope that all presenters will become active conferees.

All presenters are invited to submit their papers for consideration for publication in the Yearbook of the American Reading Forum. Reactors and members of the audience are invited to write reactions for such consideration. However, if the original paper is not accepted in the peer review process, related reaction papers will be dropped from consideration.

Guidelines for Submitting Proposals

Generally, each paper session will be limited to 30 minutes. The Program Committee will schedule two or three papers on related topics in a time slot. If the individuals submitting the proposal have not named a reactor, the Program Committee will appoint a reactor who will start the sessions and conduct a 10-minute reaction to the papers including comments and questions from the audience. Special arrangements may be made for paper presentations that need more time, depending on time availability.

Panels will be limited to 60 minutes. Those proposing panel sessions should assemble a program on one topic or multiple but related topics. Panel proposers should name their own chairs, reactors, and any others who may have a specific role in the program. Novel approaches, ways of presenting, and/or ways of involving the audience are welcomed in the panel approaches. If additional time is needed, please request additional time on the proposal cover sheet.

Problems Court sessions will be allotted 60 to 90 minutes. Not more than 30-45 minutes should be spent presenting to the audience a problem or problems that need to be resolved along with some possible solutions or courses of action. The remaining 30-45 minutes should be reserved for audience participation. Panel proposers should name their own chairs, reactors, and any others who may have a specific role in the program.

Advancing Literacy sessions will be allotted 20 minutes during an all conference round table session. A roundtable advancing literacy paper presentation describes an on-going study; work in the planning stages, or theoretical work. Audiovisual equipment (i.e., LCD projectors, screens) is not provided for roundtable sessions.

Materials to be Submitted with a Proposal

All Proposals must be submitted electronically and must include:
1. One cover sheet (include institutional affiliation, mailing address, cell telephone, office telephone, additional presenters and their institutional affiliation, mailing address, cell telephone, office telephone).
2. A description of your proposal following the appropriate guidelines below:
   o Paper sessions must include: A two-to-three-page, double-spaced summary of the proposal. The summary should include:
     ▪ Objectives
     ▪ Perspectives or theoretical framework
     ▪ Methods and/or techniques
     ▪ Data source(s)
     ▪ Results, conclusions, point of view
     ▪ Educational or scientific importance
   o Problems Court sessions should be outlined in a two-to-three-page, double-spaced summary including:
     ▪ Objectives
     ▪ Perspectives or theoretical framework
     ▪ Educational or scientific importance
     ▪ Key questions for discussion
   o Panel sessions should be outlined in a two-to-three-page, double-spaced summary including:
     ▪ Objectives
     ▪ Perspectives or theoretical framework
     ▪ Educational or scientific importance
     ▪ Key questions for discussion
   o Advancing literacy sessions should be outlined in a two-to-three-page, double-spaced summary including:
     ▪ Objectives for presenting the work
     ▪ Developing Perspectives or theoretical framework
     ▪ Developing methods and/or techniques
     ▪ Key questions for discussion

Receipt of the proposal and notification of the decision of the Program Committee will be sent electronically to the first author.

PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE NAMES ON PROPOSAL SUMMARY.

NAMES SHOULD APPEAR ONLY ON THE COVER SHEET.

Audio Visual Equipment

Projectors will be provided; however, laptops, or other computer equipment will not be provided. Presenters are responsible for additional equipment, including adapters unique to their laptops.

Where to Submit a Proposal

General Proposals: must be received by August 15, 2015. The program coordinators are literacy professionals from New York State. Proposals should be sent to the ARF Conference 2015:   ARFConference2015@gmail.com

Graduate Student Proposals**:** must be received by October 1st, 2015. They should be sent to: dkphllps@niagara.edu