GET LIT! TEACHERS/WRITERS DIALOGUE
A Forum on (Why) K-12 Writing Matters

Friday, Nov. 11, Veteran’s Day, 10:30-12:30 p.m., Riverpoint Auditorium, 688 Riverpoint Blvd., Spokane. No charge for admission. Free lunch for all who RSVP to getlitkids@mail.ewu.edu. Organizer: Marny Lombard, 927-8865

Sign-in at 10 a.m. Mini-presentations will start promptly at 10:30 a.m.

The forum will include a panel of four Spokane authors and teachers. Each panelist will give a 10-minute mini-presentation, after which we’ll move into Q&A and general discussion. The panelists and their topics include:

Writing Across the Curriculum, Jack Nisbet, longtime writer-in-residence in programs across the country, also author of the new book, Mapmaker’s Eye and other award-winning volumes on Eastern Washington’s natural history. When Nisbet visits a classroom for a day or a week, his work with students often delves into science, math and history. Salamanders, anyone? (Grades 4-12)

Poetry as Skill Builder, Linda Cooper, MFA poet and essayist, Writers-in-Residence Project of Get Lit!’s Young Writers Program. Cooper uses visual, aural and experiential learning to help students master the building blocks of poetry, which are universal writing skills. (Grades 4-7)

Writing to Understand Ourselves, Sara Devins, Hutton Elementary fourth-grade teacher and writer. Devins uses writing as a tool of self-exploration and finds that her students’ writing grows in depth and power, even while they prepare for the WASL. (Grades 3-6)

Radio Writers: Authentic Purpose, Authentic Audience, Sarah Conover, author of Kindness, a collection of Buddhist tales, and Ayat Jamilah/Beautiful Signs: a Treasury of Islamic Wisdom for Children and Parents, and a teacher at Spokane Valley High School. Conover will discuss her success in teaching writing for radio broadcast. (Grades 9-12)

Moderator, Paul Lindholdt, essayist and EWU professor of American literature.

This forum is intended to provide an exchange of ideas about how writers and writing teachers approach the work of teaching writing. Other authors attending will include children’s non-fiction writer Kelly Milner Halls (k-8) and poet Dennis Held (9-12). Sorry, no clock hours. Books for sale by attending authors.

Door prizes: One copy each of The Art of Teaching Writing, by Lucy Calkins, and In the Middle, New Understandings About Writing, Reading, and Learning, by Nancie Atwell.