

Pennie L. Gray, PhD

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CURRENT POSITION: Associate Professor of Educational Studies, Coordinator of Elementary Education, and Writing Program Director at Illinois Wesleyan University

EDUCATION

PhD English Studies Illinois State University May, 2014
Emphasis in Rhetoric, Composition, and Pedagogy

Dissertation *The Invisible Composition Classroom: The Reciprocity of Face, Identity, and Politeness*
Chair Janice Neuleib, PhD

MS in Ed Education in Reading Illinois State University May, 2008
Thesis *Editing and Revising with Elementary Students*

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR LICENSES IN ILLINOIS

Reading Specialist Kindergarten - 12th grade
Elementary Education Classroom Teacher, Self-Contained Kindergarten - 9th grade
Elementary Education Classroom Teacher, Language Arts Kindergarten - 9th grade

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Kessler, M. A., & Gray, P.** (2022). First-year teaching during the pandemic: Isolation and resilience. *Critical Issues in Teacher Education*, 29, 10-22.
- Gray, P.** (2021). Mentoring first-year teachers' implementation of Restorative Practices. *Teacher Education Quarterly*, Winter, 1-22.
- Gray, P., & Seiki, S.** (2020). Institutional performativity pressure and first-year teachers. *Frontiers in Education*, 5(71). doi: 10.3389/feduc.2020.00071. Lead author.
- Gray, P.** (2020). Politeness profiles in the first-year composition classroom. *Composition Studies*, 48(1), 71-87.
- Seiki, S., & Gray, P.** (2020). The urban elementary classroom rainforest installation: A portal for student learning. *Schools: Studies in Education*, 17(1), 92-114.
- Gray, P.** (2020). Long Way Down: Making space for empathic understanding of African-American adolescents through literature. *Filoteknos*, 10. doi: @/filotek.10-#
- Gray, P.** (2019). Mitigating the apprenticeship of observation. *Teaching Education*, 31(4), 404-423. doi: 10.1080/10476210.2019.1631785
- Kohtz, C., Klimala, E., McCoy, L., & Gray, P.** (January, 2019). Reading among nursing and non nursing students in undergraduate education. *Nurse Educator*, 44(1).

Gray, P. (October, 2016). Working without a Net(work): Mentoring in Teacher Education. Conference proceedings paper. University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico: *Mentoring Institute*.

Dunbar, K., **Gray, P.**, Hall, B., Lee, J., McClintick, E., & Riley, A. (2010). Book Review of *A Guide to College Writing Assessment* (O'Neill, Moore, & Huot). *Assessing Writing*, 15(3), 204-208.

Gray, P. (2009). Assessment in writing: Progress, if not success. *English Bulletin*, 96(2), 77-121.

Gray, P., Strubhar, J., & Tornquist, K. (2008). Are we there yet? The making of a seven-year-old editor, *Illinois Reading Council Journal*, 37(1), 27-37. Lead author.

INTERVIEWS PUBLISHED

Gray, P. (2019). Interview with Pennie Gray. *Filoteknos*, 9. doi: 10.23817/filotek.9-27.

PEER REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

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| <i>A Summer Reading Program: Accessibility, Equity, and Inclusion for All</i>
American Association of Colleges and Universities: Diversity,
Equity, and Student Success Conference
Philadelphia, PA | March, 2024 |
| <i>Mentoring First-Year Teachers during a Pandemic: The Sophisticated
Simplicity of Relationships</i> (co-presented with Dr. Meghan Kessler)
Critical Questions in Education Conference
Cleveland, OH | October, 2021 |
| <i>The Reluctant College Reader: Student Strategy Use in Disciplinary Reading</i>
Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy
Blacksburg, VA | February, 2018 |
| <i>Why Won't They Read? Encouraging Student Engagement in Reading</i>
Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology Conference
Illinois State University, Normal, IL | January, 2017 |
| <i>Working without a Network: Mentoring in Teacher Education</i>
Mentoring Institute Conference
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM | October, 2016 |
| <i>Multiple Texts: Endless Possibilities for Teaching Social Justice</i> (co-
presented with Meghan Henwood, IWU alumna)
Illinois Reading Council Conference
Peoria, IL | October, 2016 |
| <i>It's Just a Suggestion: An Analysis of Peer Review Politeness Strategies in the
Composition Classroom</i>
Midwest Modern Language Association Annual Convention
Milwaukee, WI | November, 2013 |
| <i>Trusting Their Voices: Equipping Students to Take Action on Things that
Matter to Them</i> (co-presented with Dr. Ana Floriani) | October, 2009 |

Illinois Association of Teachers of English: English in Action Conference
Rockford, IL

Imagine That! A Seven Year Old Editor (co-presented with Joyce Strubhar and Karen Tornquist) March, 2008
Illinois Reading Council Conference
Springfield, IL

INTERNATIONAL INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Social Media's Role in Book Challenges May, 2023
Research on Literature for Children and Young Adults in the Face of Challenging
Realities of the 21st Century: Culture, Education, and New Media
University of Wroclaw, Wroclaw, Poland

Invited Presentations at University of Wroclaw, Wroclaw, Poland April, 2019

The History of Literacy Instruction in the United States Campus Lecture
Examination of the ways in which literacy instruction has vacillated between
various trends and conceptualizations of child development.

Multicultural Children's Literature Undergraduate Workshop
Exploration of representation in children's literature with an emphasis on the
importance of diverse literature in the curriculum.

The Hero in Children's and Adolescents' Literature Undergraduate & Graduate
Workshop
Focus on the hero's journey, traditional and emerging heroes, and the role of the
hero in adolescent literature.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Ungrading: Is It for You? (Keynote Panelist and Session Presenter) August, 2023
Center for Success Annual Conference
Bloomington, IL

Ungrading Workshop (co-presented with Libby Haywood) April, 2023
Illinois Wesleyan University
Bloomington, IL

*University Colloquium: Teacherpreneurship: At the Intersection of Pedagogy
and Invention* (co-presented with Dr. Tara Gerstner) March, 2023
Illinois Wesleyan University
Bloomington, IL

Banned and Burned: Book Censorship Then and Now (co-presented with Drs.
Emily Knox and Karen Schmidt) April, 2022
Mornings with the Professors, Illinois State University
Normal, IL

Ungrading (co-presented with Dr. Greg Shaw) January, 2022
January Pedagogy Conference, Illinois Wesleyan University
Bloomington, IL

Activating Active Reading Workshop August, 2016
Writing for Transfer Faculty Workshop, Illinois Wesleyan University
Bloomington, IL

Learning through Language April, 2014
Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology, Illinois State University
Normal, IL

Assessing Student Writing in First Year Composition March, 2009
Illinois Association of Teachers of English: Day of Renewal, Illinois State
University
Normal IL

Teacher Inquiry Workshop (co-presented with Karen Tornquist) April, 2008
Maria Saucedo Scholastic Academy
Chicago, IL

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

NexSTEM Grant	Co-knowledge generator of a 4.6 million dollar NSF grant awarded to Illinois Wesleyan University, Illinois State University, and Heartland Community College.
Labeling Theory	Investigation into labeling theory's intersection with students' self-perceptions of their own success or failure.
Teacherpreneurship	Inquiry into the ways educators take on an entrepreneurial mindset at various stages of their careers.
Restorative Practices	Exploration of non-incentivized classroom management approaches and their practical applications.
Reading and Writing Pedagogy	Examination of approaches to reading and writing instruction for both college and K-12 students.

SERVICE TO ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Writing Program Director 2022-present
Oversaw writing and writing pedagogy on campus; Coordinated the Summer Reading Program; Provided training for writing instructors.

Social Science Division Representative to the Council on University Programs and Policy (CUPP) 2018-2021
Convened Division meetings to discuss university policies and programs and represented Social Science Division perspectives at weekly CUPP meetings.

Illinois Board of Higher Education Faculty Advisory Council Representative (alternate) 2017-2021
Attended monthly meetings to represent the private university caucus; Collaborated to gather data to promote P-20 initiatives in the state of Illinois.

- General Education Task Force* 2016-2018
Collaborated to evaluate existing General Education program and presented new models for the General Education program to the campus community.
- Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning* 2015-2017, 2022-present
Co-designed and co-presented pedagogical initiatives including two faculty presentations and the May Pedagogy Conference; Evaluated campus grant proposals.
- Global Tales Story Time at Bloomington Public Library* 2015-2021
Collaborated with IWU Professor Scott Sheridan to recruit IWU international students for monthly story hour focused on the home country of the international students; Facilitated the planning and implementation of the story hour.
- May Term Advisory Committee* 2014-2016
Contributed to revision of protocols for travel courses; Assisted in preparing May Term Report for distribution to faculty.
- Youth Global Citizen/Illinois Wesleyan University Partnership Liaison* 2016-present
Initiated, developed, and oversaw partnership between IWU and the youth leadership program Youth Global Citizen, an annual leadership program for local high school students; Served as presenter and facilitator.
- Honors Research Committee Member* 2014, 2016, 2017, 2023
Provided feedback and resources for students pursuing honors research; Collaborated to assess honors research projects.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Higher Education

Associate Professor Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL August, 2014-present

Courses
 Foundations of Literacy (developed)
 Child Study and Assessment
 Student Teaching Seminar: Elementary Education
 Child and Adolescent Literature (developed)
 Advanced Assessment and Diagnosis of Reading (developed)
 Family and Community Engagement (developed)
 Educational Perspectives on Homelessness (developed)

Other Responsibilities
 Student Teaching Supervision
 Coordinator of Elementary Education
 Major and First-Year Academic Advising
 Honors Research Committee Member
 Internship Supervisor
 Independent Study Oversight

Visiting Instructor Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL 2008-2014

Courses
 Curriculum and Pedagogy in the Language Arts
 Middle School Philosophy (developed)
 Child Study and Assessment
 First Year Composition: The Face of Homelessness (developed)

Other Responsibilities
 Major and First-Year Academic Advising
 Internship Supervision

<i>Adjunct Instructor</i>	Student Teaching Supervision Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL	2003-2008
Courses	Teaching Writing in the K-12 Classroom Middle School Philosophy Family and Community Engagement in the K-12 Classroom	
Public Education		
<i>Reading Tutor</i>	Bloomington, IL	2000-2003
Responsibilities	Diagnosed reading difficulties Implemented reading remediation plans Communicated student progress to families	
<i>Classroom Teacher</i>	Bloomington Junior High School, Bloomington, IL	1990-1998
Roles and Responsibilities	Eighth grade reading Eighth grade faculty team leader Scholastic Bowl coach Multicultural Club sponsor Odyssey of the Mind sponsor	
<i>Classroom Teacher</i>	Limestone Junior High School, Herscher, IL	1986-1990
Roles and Responsibilities	Seventh and eighth grade reading Gifted education teacher Scholastic Bowl coach Peer support group facilitator Literary Club sponsor Cheerleading coach	

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

<i>Academic Advisor of the Year</i>	Student nomination and selection Illinois Wesleyan University	2022-2023
<i>Most Influential Professor Nominee</i>	Student nomination Illinois Wesleyan University	2018
<i>Professor of the Year Nominee</i>	College Panhellenic Society Illinois Wesleyan University	2016
<i>Professor of the Year Nominee</i>	Student Body Illinois Wesleyan University	2015, 2018
<i>Professor of the Year Winner</i>	College Panhellenic Society Illinois Wesleyan University	2012 & 2015
<i>Senior Class Gift Recognition</i>	Illinois Wesleyan University	yearly, 2010-2015

ONGOING EDUCATION

Fundamentals of Online Teaching	Graduate	August, 2020
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Ethnographic and Qualitative Research Conference	Attendee	March, 2019
Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy	Attendee and Presenter	February, 2018
The Nature of the Grapheme Online Seminar	Attendee	April, 2018
The Zero Allophone Online Seminar	Attendee	July, 2017
Restorative Practices Certification	Attendee and Graduate	December, 2016
University of New Mexico Mentoring Institute	Attendee and Presenter	October, 2016
4T Digital Data Literacy Conference	Attendee	July, 2016
Culturally Responsive Pedagogy Conference	Attendee	June, 2016

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education, Mu Chapter, Illinois State University
 Phi Kappa Phi, Honor Society, Illinois Wesleyan University
 National Council of Teachers of English
 Illinois Association of Teachers of English
 Illinois Reading Council
 MID-State Reading Council, Bloomington, Illinois

COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVISM

Vice President and Project Recruitment Chair **For a Better Tomorrow** July, 2015-December, 2021
 Mission: Accountable philanthropy through service and leadership.

Steering Committee Member, Facilitator, and Presenter **Youth Global Citizen** July, 2015-2021
 Mission: Developed and delivered experiential youth leadership program focused on philanthropy and servant leadership.

Member **Promise Council** August, 2013-2020
 Mission: Connecting community resources to the specific needs of students as identified by teachers and staff at local schools.

Judge **Norman Mailer Teacher Writing Award** 2010-2017
 Role: Annually evaluated and ranked twenty to seventy-five narratives for final round of judging.

Volunteer **Humane Society of Central Illinois** 2014-2017
 Role: Supported organization through animal care and cleaning and organizing the physical space of the nonprofit.