

**THE WRITING PROGRAM**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST**  
Application for Teaching Associateship, **2010-2011**

Please complete **all three** sections of this application. In addition, please submit the following documents:

1. A curriculum vitae that tells us your academic history, your relevant employment record, and any other information that is pertinent to your experiences and abilities as a teacher and/or writer.
2. Two letters of recommendation. Letters submitted as a part of your application for graduate study in the English Department will automatically be transferred to this application. If you have had teaching experience, we encourage you to send us an additional letter referring to this work.
3. A short essay demonstrating your skill as a writer of expository prose (not fiction or poetry).

If you are accepted into your graduate program, and if your application for a Writing Program TOship is deemed acceptable, we will schedule an interview with you (usually early March).

**Section I -- Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Dept: \_\_\_\_\_ UMass Student Number \_\_\_\_\_

Degree sought: (circle one: M.A. M.S. M.F.A. Ph.D. Ed.D.)

Persons from whom we may expect letters of recommendation:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	DO NOT WRITE IN THE SPACE BELOW
1. _____	_____	_____ Vita
2. _____	_____	_____ Writing Sample
		_____ Recommendations
		_____ Received

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

Application procedures: Please note different mailing addresses for incoming and current graduate students.

**Incoming MFA & MA/PhD English graduate students, submit all materials in hard copy to:**

Graduate Studies in English  
452 Bartlett Hall  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Amherst, MA 01003

**Current MFA & MA/PhD English graduate students and all non-English Dept. graduate students, submit all materials in hard copy to:**

The Writing Program  
305 Bartlett Hall  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Amherst, MA 01003

**Submission deadline for all applicants: January 15, 2010**

## Section II -- *Written Response*

Please attach a separate sheet addressing the following question. Please limit your response to 300 words.

*What do you consider to be the characteristics of an effective writing teacher? How do your experiences as a writer, student, and teacher (or tutor, trainer, or other related position) inform your ideas about teaching?*

## Section III -- *Response to Student Essay*

The following essay is a student's work-in-progress for a unit designed to exercise students' critical thinking and analytical skills as they examine and theorize a phenomenon they find difficult to explain. Students were asked to keep the following goals in mind as they completed their essays:

- To acquaint their readers fully with the phenomenon they had chosen;
- To generate a series of exploratory hypotheses that might explain the phenomenon;
- To argue in favor of the most compelling explanations.

After reading the draft, please respond to this essay as if the writer were one of your students and you were helping her to produce a revised draft. You may write comments on the essay itself, but also please attach an end comment of 1-2 paragraphs.

### **WRITING PROGRAM SAMPLE STUDENT ESSAY**

#### The Love of Fear

There are certain people out there who find pleasure in fear. Actually almost everyone enjoys being scared in one way or another. For some reason people love to jump out of their skin. Whether it be a roller coaster or a scary movie, people love to be scared. From the beginning of time, scary stories, such as ghost stories, have existed to frighten the audience, and it would seem that most people get a kick out of it. Now in this day and age people go for more elaborate ways of making their pulse quicken. There are so many things such as rock climbing, or sky diving that will make the adrenaline rush through their veins. Fear is a big high.

Scary stories have been enjoyed by most for years. The characters in the story can be killed or maimed while bringing fear into the audience's heart. The audience enjoys it because they know it is not them in the story and they will not be hurt by what they hear or see. It makes them respect their own lives that much more. This fear is enjoyed by most because there is no effort on their part to listen and watch.

A different type of fear is the type of fear that is obtained by riding a roller coaster. You buy your ticket and get on a line for an hour for a ride that lasts three minutes. Once on the ride, you are driven hundreds of feet in the air, where you are dropped down a windy track. The only thing holding you in is a little safety belt. As you are whipped around turns and sometimes upside down, the fear of death is the greatest. The rider thinks in his heart, one little malfunction and it is all over. The risk is what makes it so good. Once off the ride, the rider feels like he has accomplished something. He has conquered the ride and lived to tell about it. It is on to something bigger and better, the next ride or the next challenge.

One type of rush of fear that almost every man tries to experience in their life is driving fast. For some reason, they get into their cars and drive at top speeds weaving in and out of traffic like nothing can hurt them. Maybe it is because they are surrounded by steel and they feel safe. Some say it is too live on the edge. The fear in their eyes is terrible, but they crave it. They ask for the fear. This is like rock climbing, sky diving or skiing. They are all enjoyable things that put you at a risk of getting hurt. If you ask a person who enjoys doing any one of these things, they will tell you that it is the greatest to live on the edge. One false move and they are dead.

What makes people like to be scared is the adrenaline rush. The fear in their heart that they could be in that horror story or this could be their last dangerous ride makes people want it more. When you are close to death or you are going to get hurt, your heart starts beating fast and you cherish life that much more, especially when you live to tell about it. When you scare yourself that much it just makes you love living all the more. The feeling you get when your heart is pounding, you think you can do anything. It is great. Life is not worth much unless you live it to the extreme. So many people live by, "Live fast die young". Is it worth it?

*End*