

Kelli Sowerbrower, Ph.D.
ELA Teacher Northgate High School
Former Part-Time Professor UWG

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Education

2015: Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning, concentration in Language and Literacy
Georgia State University

Department of Middle-Secondary Education and Instructional Technology

Committee: Michelle Zoss (chair), Dana Fox, Daphne Greenburg, Philo Hutcheson

Dissertation title: Opening the classroom doors: Stories of English teachers' experience with three eras of education reform.

1999: M.Ed. in Education, with an emphasis in American Literature
University of North Texas

Teacher Certification, Secondary English (Lifetime English Certificate)

1993: B.A. English and Speech Communications University of Central Arkansas

Certifications

State of Georgia: T-7 for Secondary English, grades 6-12; Gifted Education
Endorsement

State of Texas: Lifetime Certification in English, grades 6-12

Professional and Academic Positions

Secondary Education: Academic

2018- Literature Teacher (Grades 10, 12, and AP Literature): Northgate High School,
Newnan, GA.

Duties include teaching Advanced and on-level British Literature. I also served as the Gifted Coordinator for the Northgate campus, as well as worked in depth with MTSS students struggling with reading and writing skills.

2016-2018 Literature Teacher (Grade 12): Newnan High School. Newnan, GA.

Duties included teaching British Literature to all levels of students. Ensure student writing and reading is college and career ready. I also continue to support teachers, administrators, and county administration with instructional literacy needs.

2012-2016 Literacy Coordinator (all grades): Newnan High School. Newnan, GA

Duties included creating classes and writing curriculum to build literacy and reading skills with all students, but mostly struggling readers, ensuring the Read 180 program was being taught and utilized with fidelity, providing reading strategies to teachers in all subject areas, running the Literacy Café (reading lab), as well as working closely with data to ensure all students' needs are being met in ELA classes. I also founded an annual county Literacy event featuring nationally recognized authors to speak to students, parents, and community members. This event is currently in its fourth year. During this time, I also worked closely with county leaders in creating professional development opportunities for other schools to learn literacy strategies and tools to support their own classroom experiences.

2005-2012 Literature Teacher (Grade 11): Newnan High School. Newnan, GA

Duties include teaching AP Language and Composition, Advanced and Collaborative American Literature students. I also serve as the Newnan High Book Club sponsor, SADD sponsor and Speech Editor for public speeches that students have to give.

2000-2005 English Teacher (Grades 7, 8, & 9): Hurst Junior High. Hurst, TX.

Duties included teaching all middle school grade levels, both gifted and regular. I served as Junior National Honor Society sponsor and ninth grade class advisor. I organized the annual poetry publication for English classes, and I also organized field trips to various poetry readings including one to hear Dr. Maya Angelou speak.

Secondary Education: Coaching

2012-2014 Assistant Wrestling Coach: Newnan High School. Newnan, GA

Duties included checking eligibility, completing necessary paperwork to ensure all wrestlers were current with physicals, training materials, and weigh-ins. I also traveled with the team as the faculty coach when the head coach was unavailable.

2007-2012 Girls Assistant Soccer Coach: Newnan High School. Newnan, GA.

Duties included coaching both varsity and junior varsity soccer. This included several state play-off berths and numerous Regional Championship teams.

Postsecondary: Academic

Fall, 2015-Present Part-Time Instructor: University of West Georgia. Newnan, GA.
ENG 1101 and 1102: (Instructor of Record both online and face to face courses).

Summer, 2015 Part-Time Instructor: Georgia State University Atlanta, GA.
EDRD 7630: Literacy in the Content Areas (Instructor of Record).

Spring, 2015 Part-Time Instructor: Georgia State University Atlanta, GA.
EDLA 7550: Theory and Pedagogy of English Instruction (Instructor of Record).

Summer, 2012 Part-Time Instructor: Georgia State University Atlanta, GA.
EDRD 3400: Reading the World of 21st Century Texts (Instructor of Record).
This course was taught 100% online.

Spring, 2011 Graduate Research Assistant: Georgia State University. Atlanta, GA.
Duties included working with Dr. Michelle Zoss on the following tasks: editing articles, transcribing interviews, locating research and annotating it, as well as other tasks as requested by the professor. (Paid position)

Fall, 2010 Graduate Teaching Assistant: Georgia State University. Atlanta, GA.
EDLA 6550: Principles of English Instruction (Teaching Assistant with Dr. Michelle Zoss).
Duties included planning, teaching, grading and working closely with Dr. Michelle Zoss while teaching a Master's level methods course focused on teaching literature and arts integration for the TEEMS English program. (Paid position)

Summer, 2010 Graduate Teaching Internship: Georgia State University. Atlanta, GA.
EDCI 6600: Introduction to Secondary Teaching (Internship with Dr. Mary Deming).
Duties included planning, teaching, grading and working closely with Dr. Mary Deming while teaching a Master's level methods course focused on teaching writing for the TEEMS English program. (Unpaid position)

Refereed Presentations

Sowerbrower, K., (2024, Nov). *Illuminating our humanity: Exploring literature for empathy, understanding, and exacting change*. Roundtable session at National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Boston, MA.

Sowerbrower, K., (2024, Nov). *Eight great memoirs that capture the resilience of the human spirit*. Roundtable session at National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Boston, Ma.

- Sowerbrower, K., (2024, Nov). *The intersection of sport, education, and society in English education*. Roundtable session at National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Boston, MA.
- Sowerbrower, K & Dixon, C., (2023, Jul). *The flip side: Exploring voice in scenes from multiple perspectives*. Session at AP Annual College Board Conference, Seattle, WA.
- Sowerbrower, K., (2023, Nov). *Eight %&\$#@! great censored books*. Roundtable session at National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Columbus, OH.
- Sowerbrower, K., (2019, Mar). *Talking about young adult literature!* Breakout Session at Kennesaw State Conference for Children and Young Adults, Kennesaw, GA.
- Sowerbrower, K., (2018, Nov). *The intersection of sport, education, and society in English education*. Roundtable session at National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Houston, TX.
- Sowerbrower, K., (2018, Nov.). *The future is now: Connecting with the next generation of English teacher educators*. Respondent at a roundtable presentation at National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA.
- Sowerbrower, K., & Klein, S., (2018, Mar). *Building classroom communities through young adult literature*. Breakout Session at Kennesaw State Conference for Children and Young Adults, Kennesaw, GA.
- Sowerbrower, K., & Klein, S., (2018, Jan). *Building classroom communities through young adult literature*. Breakout Session at Literacy and Beyond Conference at the University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA.
- Sowerbrower, K., (2016, Nov.). *The future is now: Connecting with the next generation of English teacher educators*. Roundtable presentation at National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA.
- Sowerbrower, K., Klein, S., & James, L. (2016, Nov.). *You are today's faces of advocacy*. Symposium presentation at the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA.
- Sowerbrower, K., & Gerber, H. (2016, Nov.). *The intersection of sport, education, and society in English education (5nd Annual)*. Featured roundtable session at National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA.

- Sowerbrower, K. & Zoss, M. (2015, July). *The storied experiences of English teachers*. Panel presentation at The International Federation for the Teaching of English (IFTE) and Conference of English Education (CEE) Summer Conference, New York, New York.
- Sowerbrower, K., Jago, C., Klein, S., Linder, R., McDowell, C., & Windhoff-Olsen, M. (2014, Nov.). *The conversation is still happening: Integrating Common Core Standards*. Symposium presentation at the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Washington, D.C.
- Sowerbrower, K., & McDowell, C. (2014, Nov.). *The future is now: Connecting with the next generation of English teacher educators*. Roundtable presentation at National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Washington, D.C.
- Sowerbrower, K. (2014, Apr.). *Teaching school: English teachers' classroom experiences during three eras of educational reforms*. Paper presentation at the American Educational Research Association (AERA), Philadelphia, PA.
- Sowerbrower, K. (2014, Mar.). *Teaching school: English teachers' classroom experiences during three eras of educational reforms*. Paper presentation at the Southern Historical of Educational Society (SHOES), Birmingham, AL.
- Sowerbrower, K., & French, L. (2014, Feb.). *Batman is not a superhero and I can prove it: Teaching the argument to struggling writers*. Teaching presentation at the Georgia Council for Teachers of English Conference, Pine Mountain, GA.
- Sowerbrower, K., Jago, C., Klein, S., Linder, R., McDowell, C., & Windhoff-Olsen, M. (2013, Nov.). *The conversation continues: Integrating Common Core Standards*. Symposium presentation at the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Boston, MA.
- Sowerbrower, K., Brown, A., Cohen, J., & Sieben, N. (2013, Nov.) *Stop bullying now: Sharing strategies for change*. Roundtable presentation at the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Boston, MA.
- Sowerbrower, K., Selland, M., & Brown, A. (2013, July). *Navigating a PhD program*. Panel presentation at the Conference of English Educators (CEE). Biannual Summer Conference, Ft. Collins, CO.
- Sowerbrower, K. (2013, Feb.). *An argument for a history of literature*. Paper presentation at the Southern Historical of Educational Society (SHOES), Charleston, SC.

Sowerbrower, K., Brown, A., & Herbach, G. (2012, Nov.). *The intersection of sport, education, and society in English education (2nd Annual)*. Featured roundtable session at National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Las Vegas, NV.

Sowerbrower, K., & Rodesiler, L. (2012, Nov.). *The future is now: Connecting with the next generation of English teacher educators*. Roundtable presentation at National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Las Vegas, NV.

Sowerbrower, K., Brown, A., Johnson, L., Lewis, M., Rodesiler, L. (2011, Nov.). *Supporting graduate students in English education*. Panel presentation at National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Chicago, IL.

Sowerbrower, K., Allen, E., Brown, D., Pelissero, A., & Rodriguez, S. (2011, Nov.). *Crafting our identities: Examining critical literacy practices in elementary, middle, secondary, and college classrooms*. Paper presentation at National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Chicago, IL.

Sowerbrower, K., Brown, A., Johnson, L., Lewis, M., Rodesiler, L. (2011, July.). *Supporting graduate students in English education*. Panel presentation at Conference on English Education (CEE) Biannual Summer Conference, New York, NY.

Invited Presentations

Sowerbrower, K., (2018, June). *Building classroom communities through young adult literature*. 2018 Summit on the Research & Teaching of Young Adult Literature at the University of Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV.

Sowerbrower, K., & Linder, R. (2016, Sept.) *Batman is NOT a superhero: Getting students excited about Toulmin's argument*. Online presentation for #TheEdCollabGathering, Workshop #16. <https://gathering.theeducatorcollaborative.com/session-four/workshop-16/>

Sowerbrower, K., & French, L. (2014, July). *Batman is not a superhero and I can prove it: Teaching the argument to struggling writers*. Teaching presentation at the Summer ELA Academies for the Dept. of Education, Cartersville, GA.

Sowerbrower, K., Puckett, C., & Roach, S. (2014, Jan.) *I hate math, and reading is for nerds!* Keynote presentation at the SSTage Annual Conference, Athens, GA.

Sowerbrower, K. (2013, June). *Language and Literacy PhD program overview: A web seminar for incoming and new Language and Literacy PhD students*. Panel leader for webinar

presentation for the Global Conference in Doctoral Preparation Web Series,
<http://globalconversationsindoctoralpreparation.wordpress.com>.

Sowerbrower, K., & Campbell, T. (2012, Jan.). *Pre-Quals 3G*. Webinar presentation for the Global Conference in Doctoral Preparation Web Series,
<http://globalconversationsindoctoralpreparation.wordpress.com/>.

Publications

Sowerbrower, K. (2025, March). Their eyes were watching God in the classroom. *Dr. Bickmore's YA Wednesday*. [Blog]. Retrieved from
<https://www.drlickmoresyawednesday.com/wed-posts/teaching-thier-eyes-were-watching-god-in-the-classroom?view=full>

Sowerbrower, K. (2022, April). A deep dive into books in verse. *Dr. Bickmore's YA Wednesday*. [Blog]. Retrieved from
<http://www.drlickmoresyawednesday.com/monday-motivators-2024/a-deep-dive-into-books-in-verse-by-kelli-sowerbrower>

Sowerbrower, K. et al. (2020, April). Putting the why in Y.A. *Dr. Bickmore's YA Wednesday*. [Blog]. Retrieved from
<http://www.drlickmoresyawednesday.com/weekly-posts/putting-the-why-in-ya-literature-by-kelli-sowerbrower>

Sowerbrower, K. (2014, September). Because all books count! *Journal of Language and Literacy Education*. [Online]. Retrieved from <http://jolle.coe.uga.edu/>

Significant Professional Service

AP Reader (2020-present)

For eight days each summer, I join several hundred teachers and read AP Literature and composition essays. These essays are scored using a rubric provided by College Board and scores are calibrated regularly.

Manuscript reviewer for the following scholarly journals (number of times):

- *English Education* (6)
- *English Journal* (1)

Service

Service to the Profession Memberships

National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)

Assembly on Literature for Adolescents (ALAN)
Conference on English Education (CEE)

Former Member

Conference on English Education (CEE) Graduate Strand Leadership Committee
Former Member of the Graduate Leadership Team for CEE International Reading Association (IRA)
Alpha Upsilon Alpha, honor society chapter of International Reading Association (AUA)

Professional Training Courses

2003 New Jersey Write Traits Training: Keller Independent School District. Keller, TX.
I was selected to participate in a three-week writing course based on a National Writing Project.
During this time, we were given many strategies to assist other teachers in our school, as well as students, to better writing instruction. I also was assistant editor to the publication that was produced during this course.

2002 Write Traits Training: Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD. Hurst, TX.
I was selected to attend a weeklong training in the five writing traits that was to be used as the main strategy used at Hurst Middle School. I trained other teachers in our school to use these five traits in our English classes.

Research Interests

Teacher narratives about their experiences with educational reforms in the classroom
Adolescent Literacy
Young Adult Literature
Engaging Reluctant Readers

Teaching Interests

Educating and mentoring students in teacher preparation courses
Adolescent Literacy
Young Adult Literature