IT’S EASIER THAN YOU THINK—
FACULTY GUIDE FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION OF STUDENT WRITING

WHAT IS CSW?

The CSW is a bi-annual event showcasing student writing on campus sponsored by the Center for the Study of Writing and SAGES and SOURCE’s Intersections Symposium and Poster Session to provide a venue for CWRU students to present their research and creative projects.

WHAT’S THE BENEFIT OF PARTICIPATING IN CSW?

Particularly for classes that have final projects and oral presentation components, CSW can be a meaningful and celebratory way to wrap up the class that gives students “real-time” opportunities to share their work with others and to demonstrate that writing takes many forms.

WHAT’S IN IT FOR THE STUDENTS?

For SAGES classes, participation in CSW offers students to practice the skills that will be valuable to their Capstone preparation. It’s also a good opportunity for students to see actual Capstone projects at the adjacent Intersections display. Finally, students always appreciate free food!

THAT’S ALL WELL AND GOOD, BUT FRANKLY, I’VE HAD MY CLASS PARTICIPATE IN THE PAST, AND ALL MY STUDENTS DO IS SIT THERE—NO ONE COMES BY THE EXHIBIT. WHY SHOULD I BOTHER JUST FOR THAT?

Lack of interaction with student presenters has been a problem in the past. But starting with the Spring 2016 CSW, we are taking steps to remedy the situation by designating faculty to circulate among the exhibits and asking students to present their projects. By Fall 2016 we hope to have a SAGES CSW prize for best presentation in place that will include a monetary award and public recognition.

DO ALL STUDENTS IN MY CLASS HAVE TO PARTICIPATE?

No. But if the project is part of your class syllabus, it would make sense. However, not all students have to be present throughout the entire CSW session. They can take shifts manning the display(s).

CAN I MAKE CSW MANDATORY FOR MY STUDENTS?

Yes, but if you do, then it needs to be clear how participation will be evaluated and how much it counts toward the final grade. It is also possible to offer extra credit for participation in cases where involvement is not mandatory.
WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP PREPARE DISPLAYS?

SOURCE offers workshops on preparing effective posters.
The Freedman Center offers inexpensive printing and scanning options.
SAGES class budgets can fund the cost of display materials.

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF EXHIBITS THAT OTHER CLASSES HAVE DONE?

A poetry wall where students make their own poems and encourage passers-by to do so as well.

A Facebook page where characters from different class readings converse with one another.

Posters or Power Points that walk the reader through individual or group projects or research findings.

Creative projects related to course content. Examples from specific classes include—

Maps of travel narratives
Models of museums or other buildings
Students’ own comics or graphic novel creations
Herbal or food displays with fresh samples
Posters and pamphlets on organizations that students designed
Newsletters related to course content
Games related to course content

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE INFINITE!

WHO CAN I TALK TO ABOUT MY IDEAS?

This year’s CSW Event Coordinator is Barbara Burgess-Van Aken. Her classes have participated in every CSW event since its inception and can share logistics and ideas that others have used for successful displays. Contact her at bab26@case.edu.

I’M SOLD. HOW DO I REGISTER MY CLASS FOR CSW?

Complete the Online Registration form on the Center for the Study of Writing webpage, which you can access at writing@case.edu. The registration deadline is Friday, March 4, 2016.