



Literacy Explosion winners from Seneca Ridge Middle School.

Virginia Students Participate in VATE'S 2016 Literacy Explosion

Students from across Virginia participated in the fifth annual VATE Literacy Explosion competition in April of 2016. For the first time, this year students competed virtually by submitting their entries online. There were entries in five categories. The categories were Book Covers, Podcasts, Book Trailer, Photo Essay and Digital Poster. In each category, the top three entries were awarded medals.

BOOK COVERS

First Place – Ally B. at Henley MS
 Second Place – Jayla S. at Crittenden MS
 Third Place – Cole M. at Seneca Ridge MS

BOOK TRAILERS

First Place – Sebastian P. at Henley MS
 Second Place – Hannah H. at Henley MS
 Third Place – Skye E. & Claire M at Belmont Ridge MS

DIGITAL POSTERS

First Place- Kathryn B. at Henley MS
 Second Place – Jamie L. at Seneca Ridge MS
 Third Place – Neena P. at Seneca Ridge MS

PODCASTS

First Place – Ayanna F. & Asharia F. at Crittenden MS
 Second Place – Declan H. at Seneca Ridge MS
 Third Place – Isabella W. & Saiya S. at Crittenden MS

PHOTO ESSAYS

First Place – Arion J. at George Wythe HS
 First Place – Heaven C. at Boushall MS
 Second Place – Saiya S. & Isabella W. at Crittenden MS

The location and date for 2017 Literacy Explosion will be announced this fall. All Virginia students in grades K-12 are invited to participate in this opportunity to share their language arts talents and abilities. Thank you to the students and teachers for their hard work. We celebrate each of you.



Literacy Explosion winners from Henley Middle School.

More Literacy Explosion Winners



Literacy Explosion winner from George Wythe High School.



Literacy Explosion winners from Crittenden Middle School.



Literacy Explosion winner from Boushall Middle School.



Literacy Explosion winners from Belmont Ridge Middle School.

Send us your submissions or students' work

If you are doing awesome work in your classroom or want to showcase your students' hard work, send an email to the VATE Voices editor, Shannon Pittman-Price, at shannonpittmanprice@gmail.com.

ATEG Invites You to Attend their 27th Annual Conference at UVA

The Assembly for the Teaching of English Grammar, an affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of English, invites you to attend its 27th annual conference, to be held in Zehmer Hall at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA.

Walt Whitman, in "Song of Myself," boldly states "I contain multitudes;" this year, ATEG makes a similar assertion: our 27th conference celebrates strategies, methods, and ideas related to effective grammar instruction—especially when that instruction is used to make grammar accessible, relevant, and engaging to all students. This year's conference will focus on grammar instruction designed to reach the diverse array of students teachers serve.

Innovative grammar instruction can do more than help students avoid errors—it can introduce them to the many possibilities and varieties of language. Join us in Charlottesville as we share ideas and celebrate the many forms of effective grammar instruction—and the many types of student success it can create.

For more information, go to <http://ateg.weebly.com/2016-conference.html>.

Authors, Vendors, Sessions & Networking

VATE-2016
FALL
CONFERENCE



OCTOBER 21— 23, 2016
Crowne Plaza Marina
Hampton, VA
700 Settlers Landing Rd.

Calling English
Teachers
of all Grades

Celebrating Waves of Success Through Literacy

Friday-Workshops & Reception @ Hampton University Art Museum

Saturday-Workshops, Luncheon & Celebration Networking Cruise

Sunday— Brunch and Keynote Speaker



Vanessa Barger
Sunday



Derek Kannemeyer
Friday



Shekema Silveri
Saturday



Twitter: @VATENGLISH
Facebook: COM/VATEORG

Conference Information
and Registration at
VATE.ORG



Professional Programs for Educators

June 27 – July 1, 2016

On the Campus of

James Madison University



2016 Academies

- Math and Reading
- Best Practices for Teaching Online
- Dual Language
- Instructional Methods in Gifted Education
- Enhancing Academic Content with Computer Science
- English
- Mathematics
- Project Based Learning
- More academies to be added soon; visit the CTA website for updates.

Highlights

- Monday- Keynote Speaker
- Tuesday- Vineyard Field Trip
- Wednesday- Graduate Sessions
- Thursday- Celebration Dance
- Friday- Academy Sharing



The 17th Annual Content Teaching Academy

"I LOVE attending the CTA. I always leave with lots of great ideas and a positive attitude."

"The presenters were excellent and relevant. This is one of the most helpful PD experiences I have ever had."

"Very uplifting experience!"

- feedback from
2015 CTA
participants

The CTA is an incredible VALUE!

Located in the beautiful and historic Shenandoah Valley, the academies offer high quality professional development that include in-depth studies in a range of content areas. In addition, each Academy is designed to engage participants in critical dialogues of practice with instructional sessions conducted by scholars and master teachers who understand the challenges associated with today's classroom.

Registration Fee: \$395 (early)

On-Campus Housing: \$160 (optional)

Meal Plan: \$80 (optional)

Graduate Credit: \$330/440 (in-state/out-of-state, optional)

www.cta.jmu.edu

Send us your submissions or students' work

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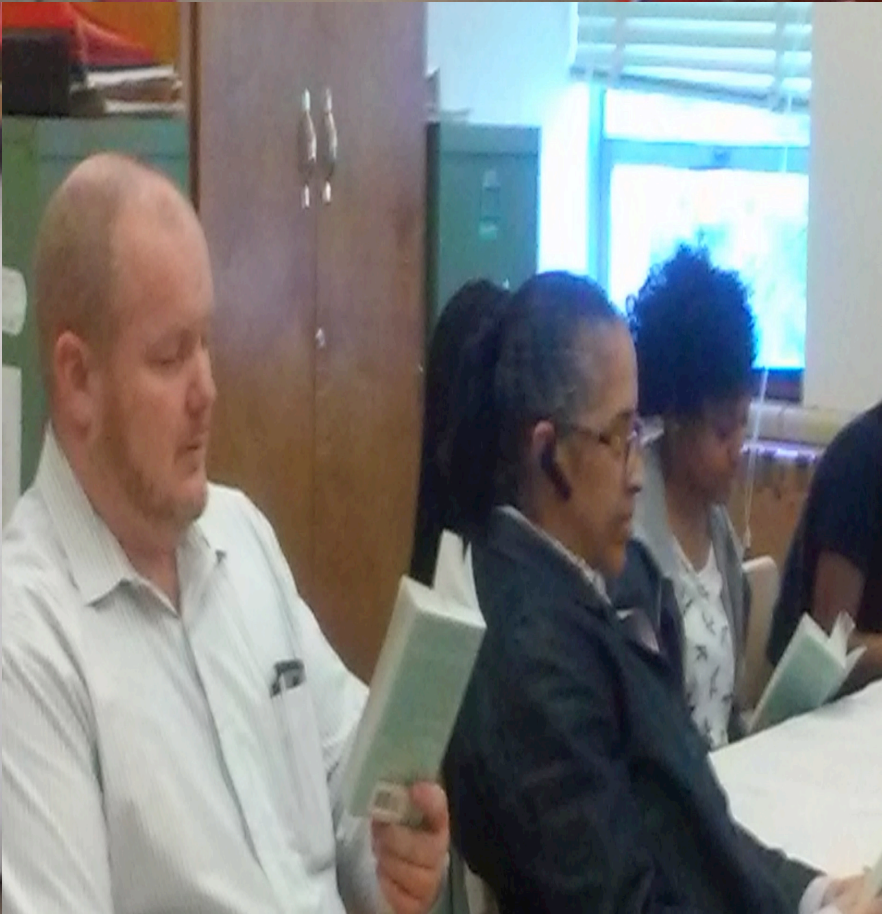
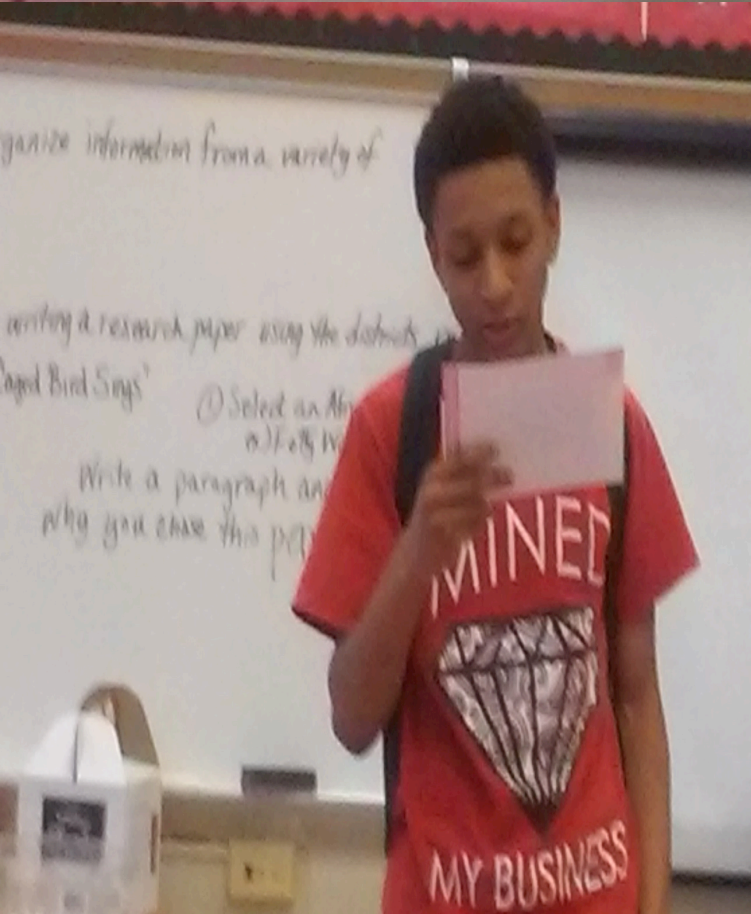
VATE's 2nd Annual EdCamp was held in Richmond

VATE's 2nd Edcamp was held in Richmond, Virginia at George Wythe High School on February 20, 2016. It was a successful and resourceful event to all those who attended. The topics that were discussed was: Reading Comprehension, Student Engagement, Testing Strategies, Creative and Collaborative Projects and Teacher to Teacher Support.



George Wythe H.S. participated in African American Read-In

The students at George Wythe High School participated in an "African American Read-In." The students, faculty, and administrators all read the novel "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" in the read in. The students also had to bring a covered soul food dish to share with the group. Students read their researched information on the soul food dish and the connection to the African American culture.



VATE's Official Position on House Bill 516

The Virginia Association of Teachers of English (VATE), the state affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of English, respectfully disagrees with the House of Delegates' vote on House Bill 516 regarding Policy on Sexually Explicit Instructional Material. We strongly object to the language requiring that schools "notify the parent of any student whose teacher reasonably expects to provide instructional material that includes sexually explicit content."

VATE values the communication between teachers and parents about the content used to satisfy course objectives. The organization also recognizes the professional knowledge of teachers and relies on them to make sound judgments about the literary merit of the texts selected for a course. Conversations arising from questions about a text and its use in the classroom are meaningful opportunities to strengthen the educational partnership between parents, teachers, and students; however, the productivity of these conversations is diminished if the parent or student is responding to a label as opposed to a passage in context.

The language proposed for inclusion not only negates the expertise of educators, but also privileges the concerns of a minority that object to a text on personal or ideological grounds. While the term "sexually explicit" is defined in the Code of Virginia, denoting texts with this label remains arbitrary when applied to a passage or visual out of context.

The study of both literary and nonfiction texts is a process through which students learn to consider the author's craft, diverse perspectives, and a work as whole rather than separate pieces. Judging a text based on isolated content warrants strong consideration as it limits the scope of reading experiences available to students, undermines the expertise of teachers, and unnecessarily censors materials available in our public schools.

Sincerely,

Chuck Miller, Executive Secretary

Sarah Crain, Policy and Advocacy Chair

Tori Otstot, Past President

Kelly Trump, President

Read the bill here:

<https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?161+sum+HB516>

Read more about the bill:

http://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/news/house-bill-would-allow-parents-to-veto-sexually-explicit-materials/article_a0ebd738-c4d0-11e5-84d4-475d21ee4ab3.html

<http://rvamag.com/articles/full/25620/bill-allowing-parents-to-review-books-veto-sexually-explicit-material-passes>

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