1) The National Writing Project is the largest and longest-standing teacher development program in U.S. history.

2) The NWP is not just another professional development “project.” It is a national infrastructure of 197 linked sites, each of which is a local school-university partnership.

3) Federal funding of the NWP is not just another annual “expenditure.” It is an investment that is cost efficient and generates ever-expanding capacity to serve teachers.
KEY POINTS

4) THE FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN THE NWP INFRASTRUCTURE LEADS TO LARGE-SCALE IMPROVEMENTS IN STUDENT WRITING.

5) FEDERAL FUNDING REMAINS CRITICAL TO THE NWP’S FUTURE WORK. FEDERAL FUNDING ENABLES THE INFRASTRUCTURE TO FUNCTION. A DISCONTINUITY IN FEDERAL FUNDING COULD PUT THE ENTIRE INFRASTRUCTURE, BUILT OVER 30 YEARS, AT RISK.
1. THE NWP IS THE LARGEST AND LONGEST-STANDING TEACHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN U.S. HISTORY
THE NWP HAS EXPANDED ITS CAPACITY AND SERVICE CONTINUALLY SINCE 1974
In 2007, there are 197 sites. 109 of them are more than 10 years old.
NWP sites currently serve ~90,000 teachers a year. An estimated 1.8 million teachers have participated since 1974.
An estimated 16 million students are in NWP teachers’ classrooms every year.

Estimated number of students in classrooms taught by teachers served by NWP Sites
(303.8 million students total)
2. THE NWP IS NOT JUST ANOTHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT “PROJECT.”

IT IS A NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMPOSED OF 197 LINKED SITES.
By infrastructure, we mean a foundational system that makes work possible.

- Broad and equitable access.
- Strong central capacity supports customized local services.
- Everyday examples—roads and highways, electricity, telephones, air flight systems, water systems.
The NWP infrastructure consists of 197 linked and mutually supported local sites.
NWP offers broad geographical access to teachers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>In the U.S.</th>
<th>In NWP Service Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># counties</td>
<td>3,218</td>
<td>2,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># districts</td>
<td>16,723</td>
<td>12,781</td>
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<tr>
<td># schools</td>
<td>96,047</td>
<td>77,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># students</td>
<td>48.8 million</td>
<td>41.5 million (85%)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
3. FEDERAL FUNDING OF THE NWP IS NOT JUST ANOTHER ANNUAL “EXPENDITURE.”

IT IS AN INVESTMENT THAT IS COST EFFICIENT and GENERATES EVER-EXPANDING CAPACITY TO SERVE TEACHERS.
THE INVESTMENT IS HIGHLY COST EFFICIENT

The costs of NWP sites and programs are shared by federal, state, and local university and school sources.
On average, in the 5 years from 2001 to 2006, sites received 77% of their funding from sources other than the federal NWP investment. This represents more than $3 for every $1 of NWP federal funding.
Of the leveraged funds, 33% comes from local universities, 25% from local schools, 18% from states, and the rest from other sources.
The NWP (federally funded) cost per educator contact-hour is $5.35. The remaining $12.84 is supported by leveraged funds.

![Cost per educator contact hour 2005-06](chart.png)

Cost per educator contact hour 2005-06
(1.7 million total hours)

- $5.35 (NWP)
- $12.84 (Leveraged)

Total: $18.19
The investment creates an ever-expanding capacity to serve teachers.

The NWP adheres to a teachers-teaching-teachers model that helps develop and disseminate expert teaching knowledge on a very large scale.
In any given year, ~6,000 teacher-consultants are serving some 90,000 teachers in site-sponsored programs.

- Summer institutes serve about 3,000 teachers per year.
- On average, every teacher-consultant works with 15 teachers.
The leverage of investing in a national infrastructure:

1 NWP INFRA-STRUCTURE → 197 LOCAL SITES → 6,000 Teacher-Consultants → 90,000 Teachers Annually → ~16 million Students in NWP Teacher Classrooms

Federal Investment $$$
4. THE FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN THE NWP INFRASTRUCTURE LEADS TO LARGE-SCALE IMPROVEMENTS IN STUDENT WRITING.
NWP PROGRAMS ARE OF HIGH QUALITY. TEACHERS VALUE THEM AND USE WHAT THEY LEARN FOR THE BENEFIT OF THEIR STUDENTS.
98% of teachers at NWP institutes say NWP is better than other professional development.

(Source: Survey of summer institute participants 2006)
What institute participants say they gain from NWP for teaching writing:

- Concrete teaching strategies: 96%
- Up-to-date research and practice: 93%
- Ways to assess students' work and plan teaching: 89%
- Ability to teach students of diverse backgrounds: 89%
- Motivation to seek more professional development: 89%
- Ability to help students meet standards: 85%
NWP PARTICIPATION TRANSLATES INTO BETTER WRITING FOR STUDENTS.
97% of teachers at NWP institutes say that what they learn translates into improved writing skills for their students.

- "A great deal will translate" 80.8%
- "A lot" 16.5%
NWP teachers use and disseminate classroom practices associated with higher writing achievement.

NWP institute participants report that they:

- Talk to students about what they write: 100%
- Have students plan their own writing: 82%
- Spend the right amount of time on persuasive writing: 79%
- Have students revise their stories or reports: 74%
- Have students define a purpose and audience: 65%

These practices are correlated with higher scores nationwide on the 2002 NAEP writing assessment.
NWP teachers also use and disseminate classroom practices associated with higher reading achievement.

NWP institute participants report that:

- Students write long answers to questions involving reading: 90%
- Teacher uses individual or group projects to assess student progress in reading: 75%
- Teacher uses extended essays/papers to assess student progress in reading: 61%

These practices are correlated with higher scores nationwide on the 2003 NAEP reading assessment.
5. FEDERAL FUNDING REMAINS CRITICAL TO THE NWP’S FUTURE WORK.

FEDERAL FUNDING ENABLES THE INFRASTRUCTURE TO FUNCTION.

A DISCONTINUITY IN FEDERAL FUNDING COULD PUT THE ENTIRE INFRASTRUCTURE, BUILT OVER 30 YEARS, AT RISK.
The role of the federal funding – supporting the core:

- Site leadership
- National network that develops and supports the site leadership
- Teacher leadership development
- Research and evaluation
The role of local university, school, state, and other dollars – supporting the work:

- Providing the housing of 197 local sites
- Supporting more than 7,000 local professional development programs annually
- Supporting nearly 900 long-term partnerships with local schools
THE NWP IS NOT SMALL.

THE NWP IS NOT A SHORT-TERM PROJECT.

RATHER, THE NWP IS AN ONGOING NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE TEACHING OF WRITING.